# MC:SM Rewritten: Book 2 (Assembly Required)

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Jesse, Nikki, and friends set out on an epic quest to collect the Order of the Stone. Unbeknownst to Jesse, according to his choice, Nikki leaves with Olivia to find Ellegaard, but ends up finding much more: a command block amulet capable of powers thought to be long-lost! With Soren holding the answers to the amulet, as well as stopping the Wither Storm, the group sets off to find him, only to realize that there's more than one person chasing him...

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# **Prologue**

You know the story. The Minecraft story, that is. About the journey Jesse and his friends made to stop the Wither Storm and save the world. Here, the adventure has started again, but now with the new, never before noticed character, Nikki, Jesse's younger sister, and yet another future hero. Side by side with her friends, both old and new, Nikki strives to help rescue everyone from the coming storm by finding the Order of the Stone. Jesse and Axel have taken off to find Magnus the Rogue. But it is to be remembered that Nikki has a thirst for adventure that cannot be quenched...

# What awaits our heroes in Book 2? Welp, only one way to find out!



# **Chapter 1: A Ghastly Encounter**

Chapter 1 is real short, actually. Not sure why, but that's KINDA good, I guess? Well, anyways, read ahead, and see what's up with the boys!

## Axel's POV

"Woo-hooooooooo!" cheered Axel as the minecarts zipped through the Nether. Jesse turned to give him a skeptical look from the minecart in front of him. "Aw, come on, Jesse. You're not even having a little fun?" he questioned his friend. "I mean, I am!" Axel threw his hands in the air.

"Just don't lose track of why we're here, okay?" Jesse reminded him. "If we don't get the Order together, the Wither Storm is going to eat EVERYTHING." At the mention of the Wither Storm, Axel's ecstatic smile faded. "Which means," continued Jesse, "we need to get to Magnus as soon as freaking possible!"



gonna find Magnus, bring him back, and he'll TOTALLY know how to blow that thing sky-high!"

"He's right," Axel had to admit. "We're

Suddenly, Axel glanced ahead, and a ghast rounded the corner! "Uh, DUDE!" he warned Jesse, but it was too late. The ghast shot a fireball. It hit the front of the minecarts, tossing Jesse, Axel, and Reuben out. "Well, THIS is certainly

a promising start," Axel moaned inwardly.

# Jesse's POV

"Ow, ow, ow, ow!" Jesse winced at their painful landing. The ghast hovered in front of them, preparing to shoot yet another fireball. Quickly, he and his friends ducked behind a patch of soul sand. "Why does it hate us so much?!" yelped Axel. Jesse peeked up from behind their sandy shield, and noticed that the minecarts were slipping off the edge of the track!

"The minecarts!" he cried. Without them, they'd never reach Magnus! He tried to move towards them, but the ghast blasted another lethal fireball at them. It would be impossible to reach them with that ghast floating there.

"Hurry! Use something on that ghast!" Axel told him.

"Okay, think fast, Jesse...what to choose?" he queried. He looked over what he had: flint and steel, the Order's amulet, the bow he made in the temple, and the stone sword he had crafted at Petra's. Just looking at it made his heart ache. Petra had been left behind while he and his friends escaped into the Nether. It was unknown whether she was alive or not. Whatever had happened to her, he missed her terribly. Right then and there he knew what he needed to use to defeat the ghast.

"Just...don't miss, okay?" pleaded Axel as Jesse pulled out the stone sword. "I don't want it to hate us even more." As he spoke, the ghast shot yet another fireball. Jesse leapt one direction while Axel leapt the other. He quickly ran between the ghast and Axel, who was pulling the minecarts back onto the track. He faced the ghast directly in the eyes, waiting for the next fireball. When it was shot, he swung as hard as he could, throwing the fireball right back at it. The force of the blow killed it on the spot.

"That was for Petra!" Jesse thought triumphantly. Reuben, sensing it was safe, crawled out from behind the soul sand mound. "Time to move, buddy!" Jesse told his pet pig. "Let's go!" Then, they hopped into the minecarts, and they were on the rail again.

"You were awesome, Jesse!" cheered Axel. "With the ghast, and chasing the minecarts! That is, like, the perfect warmup for when we get to Boom Town!"

Jesse was confused. "Boom Town?" he asked.

"Yeah! Boom Town!"

Adventure already? These guys are in for a bigger quest than we thought! See you all in Chapter 2!

# **Chapter 2: Change of Plans**

Let's move on! I wonder how Nikki, Olivia, and Lukas are doing back at the temple?

#### Nikki's POV

Nikki watched as Axel, Reuben, and her brother Jesse vanished into the Nether portal. She couldn't help but hope Jesse had allowed her to come with them. She wanted to do everything she could to help save the world. She couldn't really do much if she was sitting safely inside a weathered temple while the boys risked their lives in an unknown area. With a sigh, Nikki headed back inside the temple's map room, where Lukas and Olivia were already working on rebuilding its walls with cobblestone.

"Hey, there you are, Nikki. What's up?" Lukas asked from atop a half-built wall. Nikki was so exhausted and disappointed that she could only shrug. She knew she was letting her emotions show, but how else was she supposed to react?

"I only hope Jesse stays safe," she prayed silently.

## Olivia's POV

Olivia saw Nikki shuffle off to a chest in the corner to grab a pickaxe. She obviously seemed to notice her disappointment, and seemed determined to fix it. "Lukas, see if you can get these walls done on your own," Olivia notified Lukas. "Nikki and I will go mining for some materials." Nikki whipped around, her face stretched in surprise. But then she turned and shrugged, picking up an iron pickaxe and heading outside to find a cave. Olivia followed, hoping she could fix her friend's problem.



Later, inside a deep cave, Olivia and Nikki had mined in silence for a while before Olivia finally spoke up.

"Gee, I hope Jesse and Axel can find Magnus in time," she said aloud. Nikki just ignored her, but Olivia saw her shoulders tense.

"Me, too...I guess..." Nikki finally said, sadness deepening her voice.

"Okay, come clean. What's eating you?"

Nikki didn't reply. Olivia was now more confused than curious. "It's just...I'm

worried." "About what?"

"Jesse. We're more used to sticking together than splitting up,"

"So? You've separated before,"

"But while a Notch-forsaken monster is on the loose?"

"Oh...now I see where you're coming from,"

"We watch each other's backs. If I'm not there and something happens--" "Whoa, whoa, easy! Nothing's going to happen. Well, at least nothing he can't handle," "You think so?"

"I know so."

Olivia patted Nikki's shoulder gently. "The guys will be back with Magnus before you know it, and then we can set out for Ellegaard's," she promised. Nikki gave her a smile. "Wow, Olivia," she said. "I always knew you could fix things, but I didn't know you could fix emotions, too." Olivia blushed.

# Nikki's POV

Nikki was glad Olivia had spoken to her about Jesse. She felt a lot better than she had before. "The only problem is that we have to wait until they get back to go retrieve Ellegaard, and we need the Order together as soon as possible. Maybe even sooner than possible!" Nikki went a little deeper into the cave and found some redstone ore. It reminded her of Ellegaard.

Suddenly, she had an idea. She rushed back up to find Olivia, excitement and a thirst for adventure brewing inside her stomach.

"You think we should what?!" Olivia and Lukas gasped when they were back at the temple. "We have no idea when they're coming back—it could take months! But we don't have that kind of time, so what if Olivia and I went to go get Ellegaard? We'd be killing two birds with one stone!"

"Fair point," Lukas said. "Counterpoint—if you guys leave, I'll be left to work on this place all on my own! The whole reason Jesse left you behind, Olivia, is so we could work together on this place!"

"Gee, thanks for reminding me,"

"No problem,"

"Guys, focus!" Nikki firmly told the other two. "This is serious—if we don't get the Order together on time, then the Wither Storm gets the meal of a lifetime!" Lukas and Olivia seeped in her words, suddenly understanding the urgency. "Okay...but what about the building situation? I can't fortify this place all by myself," reminded Lukas.



"True—so we'll finish it—tonight!" Nikki declared. "We got enough materials. Then tomorrow morning, we set out for...for...wherever Ellegaard lives."

"You mean Redstonia," Olivia said.

"Yeah, there,"

"Alright, then," Lukas agreed. "Let's get started then!"

#### Lukas' POV

The next morning seemed to come way too fast for Lukas. He wasn't too sure about the girls leaving for Redstonia, but if it meant getting Ellegaard and the Order reunited even sooner than before, he was all in for it. He just wished he didn't have to be left all alone. But that wasn't the only problem.

"Don't worry, Lukas," Nikki consoled him. "We'll be as quick as rabbits."

"I know you will," he replied, ruffling her hair affectionately. "My problem is that you, or Olivia might--"

"Be hurt? Nah! I mean, sure, we'll run into some tough bumps, but we'll be totally

fine," "Okay..."

"Nikki!" Olivia's voice interrupted Lukas and Nikki's conversation. "We need to go now. We're all ready!" Nikki nodded once to Olivia, then turned back to Lukas.

"Stay safe, okay, dude?" she asked.

"You too," he said. Then, Nikki and Olivia were off to the Nether portal.

A few hours after their departure, it began to get dark. Lukas took watch in the balcony over the entrance. He was just gazing peacefully over the serene landscape when he heard a twig snap. Lukas quickly drew his bow. "Who's there? I'm warning you, I'm armed!" he warned into the darkness. A few bushes rustled, and out flew Zephyr. Lukas breathed a sigh of relief, and allowed the tiny ender bat to land on his shoulder and lick his face.

"Hey, Zeph. Find anyone?" he asked the bat. Zephyr, in return, tipped his miniscule head to a dark figure who stepped out of the bushes. Lukas squinted to get a better look, and was bewildered. It was a person, but not just any person.

"Petra?!"

Surprise, surprise! Petra's not dead! \*happy face\* Now, the chapters SHOULD come out faster now that I have worked into the book further. See you till then!

# Chapter 3: "Boom", Baby!

Thank goodness! This one came out faster than before. That's helpful, right? (And I'm STILL terrible at making MC:SM-related puns for chapters:,D)

## Jesse's POV

Jesse, Axel, and Reuben hopped out of the minecarts at another portal which stood next to a sign that read "Boom Town." They had made it. All they needed to do was go through. "I, uh, think I'm gonna hold off on going first here," Axel said nervously. "Why don't you take this one, Jesse?"

"Of course," Jesse sighed inwardly, but, with a determined look on his face, he went through the portal, Reuben following him. When he appeared on the other side—he almost fell of a high height! Reuben actually did fall. Then, Axel came through and bumped into him, causing them both to smash to the ground. The portal turned out to be an "o" in the floating words, "Boom Town."

Getting to his feet, Jesse and the others quickly ran to a building that was somehow still standing and flattened themselves against the half-damaged wall.

"Just be careful, okay?" he warned Axel and Reuben. "One wrong step..." he didn't want to finish. The group shimmied carefully along the wall and reached the end. But once Jesse left the safety of the building's side, he activated a tripwire, causing an explosion, which triggered many more explosions. With exclamations of surprise, Jesse, Reuben, and Axel started running blindly, dodging TNT and craters.



At one point, a griefer ran right at Jesse, a lighted TNT block over his head. Jesse ducked as the lethal block exploded, taking the griefer with it. Another griefer chucked eggs at the gang, but they evaded him, and all the eggs did was spawn baby chickens. Finally, the group was able to reach a rare, quiet area of Boom Town.

"Woah, you see that?!" Axel exclaimed to Jesse as he carried Reuben. "Utter chaos, man!" Jesse knew he was right: it was utter chaos out here. How where they supposed to find Magnus in these conditions? He guessed it would be best to look around.

## Axel's POV

Axel looked around to see what he could find that would lead them to Magnus. He gazed to his right to see a cactus. There weren't a lot of these back home. He only wished he could take it as a souvenir, but he didn't want to stick it in his pants. Then he heard yelling. Axel walked over to the edge of a crater where Jesse was standing, watching two griefers. One carried TNT, and the other was running from him.

"You loot is mine, brigand!" shouted the griefer with the TNT. "You'll have to catch me first, anvil foot!" the other jeered mockingly. Then, they ran out of sight, and the TNT exploded! "Whoa!" gasped Jesse. "I...hope they're okay."

"And if they're not, at least they died doing what they loved," thought Axel. He watched as Jesse's attention drained from the possibly-dead griefers to an amulet poster. He took it out to compare it, and the green bar began to glow! "Dude, it's freaking glowing!" he announced.

"Only the green part, though," Jesse identified. "And look, it glows brighter when I move in certain directions!" he added, moving around to prove his point. He held it up to follow the glow better. Axel tried to give him directions. "Maybe to the left—no, no, right. I mean your left. Right. I mean, you're right. About left." Axel had no clue where to lead Jesse.

"Axel, you're stressing me out with that,' snapped Jesse. His retort trailed off into a gasp of amazement as the amulet's glow pointed towards an obsidian spire that looked like it had been blasted in the middle. Reuben also oinked in his own little shock. "Ding-ding-ding! Looks like that spire is where we'll find Magnus," Jesse guessed. Axel couldn't wait to head on over. Suddenly, he heard a silent thud. Turning his head, he realized that a griefer girl with blue hair and pigtails had noticed them and was approaching openly.

"Hey there, new people," she greeted them in a blank tone.

"This isn't going to play out well," Axel gulped.

And Nohr makes her debut! Looks like Jesse, Reuben, and Axel are in for a bad time! \*insert Megalovania theme here\* I can't believe that jokes still not old. Well, till the next chapter!

# **Chapter 4: This Little Piggy Went Loco!**

This little half-pint went after Ellegaard! This little engineer went fangirling! And THIS little piggy went "Wee-wee-wee, I'M F\*\*KING FILLER!"

#### Olivia's POV

"This is so cool!" said Olivia, exhilarated. "The amount of engineering it must have taken to do this..." She was still so taken by the construction of this network. Automated train tracks running through the Nether? Connecting all of the Order members? She could only imagine all the scaffolding they needed to make all this!

"It IS impressive," Nikki agreed. "But we need to stay focused on the task at hand. Remember why we need Ellegaard: she's going to help us think of a way to stop the Wither Storm."

Olivia knew the young girl was right, but nothing stopped her from admiring Ellegaard's work, did it?



The trip went along smoothly, until

Olivia felt a sharp bump, and a screeching-slash-clicking sound. The minecarts stopped abruptly. "What was that?!" she wheezed, trying to catch her breath from the sudden stop.

"We had an accident!" Nikki told her.

"I know that! What I want to know is what stopped us?"

Nikki hopped out of her cart and checked the front. "There's no more rail here," she informed Olivia. "It must have worn away over time."

"So?" Olivia shrugged. "We can just put the carts on the next rail."

"That's true, but the carts won't be able to move unless we push them. It's all flat from here to the Redstonia Nether portal,"

"Oh..." Olivia hadn't realized that. "Well, then what do we do?" "Luckily for us, I brought an emergency crafting table, so we can build more rail. Could you hand me some iron ingots?"

Olivia started to sweat. "Um, I thought you had brought them, so..."

"Oh, my Notch, you must be joking. You didn't bring any iron?!"

"Yeah, that might have been a mistake on my part,"

"\*Sigh\*, okay then. What DID you bring?"

"I have two sticks Lukas gave me that was left over from when Jesse built that bow, my pick, and 5 gold ingots from mining earlier,"

"I've got an iron sword Petra let me craft, that table—oh! and I also have some redstone dust from mining as well."

Olivia thought over what they had. What could they make? Then, all of a sudden, it came to her. "A powered rail!" she said aloud.

"What?"

"We can build a powered rail, and give those minecarts a boost!"

"Great idea! But wait—agh! We only have 5 ingots. We need 6 to make a rail," "Hmmm...where are we going to—LOOK OUT!"

Olivia pointed in a frightened spazz behind Nikki, where a zombie pigman stood on the side of the tracks! "Whoa, Olivia, cool it!" Nikki soothed. "Pigmen are neutral mobs; they only attack if you hit them! Petra told me." She paused for a moment, and seemed to realize something.

"...She also told me that pigmen have a small chance of dropping a gold ingot!" Olivia saw what she was getting at.

"I'll give you some cover!" she said, already taking out her pick. "So much for promising Lukas that we'd be fine on the trip..."

#### Nikki's POV

Nikki faced the pigman bravely. She knew that once she hit it, there would be no going back. Doing a quick 360 to make sure there were no other pigmen around, she swung her iron sword. Nikki's aim was true; her first hit sent the pigman flying ten blocks away. But it recovered fast, and charged at her, waving its golden sword.

"Olivia, get ready!" she warned her friend. "When I dodge, you swing that pick like you've never hit so hard before!" Olivia nodded to say that she understood. Nikki turned back to the enraged pigman, which was gaining speed and getting closer. "Wait...wait...NOW!" Nikki yelled at the last second, careening to the side. The pigman sped right past her—straight to Olivia.



"FORE!" shouted the redstone engineer, who slashed her pickaxe like she was hitting a home run. And quite a home run indeed, for the pigman caught ALL of Olivia's blow. It fell backwards to the ground, stunned. Seeing her chance, Nikki bolted for the pigman and stabbed it right in the middle, disintegrating it. All it left behind was 2 pieces of rotten flesh, and—

"An ingot!" Olivia cried happily. "Nice work, Nikki!" She picked it up, and added it to her own stack. She gave her stack to Nikki, who crafted the rail, and laid it down. Then, with the remaining stick, she made a redstone torch that would power the rail.

"Alright, let's ride!" Nikki declared when she had finished. She hopped in the minecart up front, and once Olivia had settled into hers, Nikki placed the redstone torch, and the powered rail did its work.

"I never doubted you for a second, but—that was incredible!" Olivia cheered. "Wow! Thanks, Olivia," Nikki said, bashfully scratching the back of her head. "Maybe we have a chance to getting to Ellegaard after all!"

"Oh. Thank you," Nikki frowned, visibly deflated. "Oh, don't sweat over it," she replied, obviously oblivious to what Nikki was implying. The 14-year-old facepalmed, but forced a smile.

"Look! There's the sign!" she pointed out, changing the subject. "Redstonia, here we come!"

Short, I know, but you know what else is short? The time it'll take to post the next chapter! :D

# **Chapter 5: Griefer Tag & Repeater Madness**

Hoh, boy. Hope you guys are comfortable in your chairs, because here comes a looooooooong chapter!

# Jesse's POV

"You, ah, said you know where Magnus is?" continued the blue-haired griefer. "All the griefers in Boom Town want to know where Magnus is, y'know?"

"Why do you want to know so badly?" Jesse challenged.

"Oh...no reason."

"What's going on?!"

Jesse and Axel flicked their heads in the direction of a new voice. A griefer guy with tan skin that was almost orange and a blue-and-green wrestler mask was coming. A female griefer with green pigtails followed, then a griefer with a red smiley-face mask. Griefers were streaming out of the half-damaged buildings left and right.

"Nohr found some noobs with a thing that can find Magnus," Smiley Mask answered.

"Jesse...?" Axel turned to Jesse for a solution to the growing problem, his usually booming voice unusually quiet. Reuben shook and backed behind Jesse's legs. "Bunch of scavengers!" Nohr scowled at the crowd in front of her. "This drop is mine!"

"How about you help us?" Jesse suggested. "I promise it's to help save the world--"

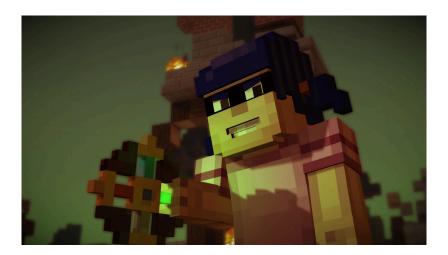
"Yeah...sounds complicated," denied Wrestler. "I prefer you just hand over the thingy." Jesse looked down at the amulet. Now he knew he should have never taken it from Nikki. Gabriel had trusted HER with it, not him. There was no way he could let these griefers have it. He'd have to fight his way out.

But before he could react, Nohr pounced and grabbed the amulet out of his hand! Jesse tried to snatch it back, but Nohr was too quick. "Get back here with that!" demanded a now-angry griefer. "Get her!" shouted another. Nohr raced a short distance to a building.

"Oh, Mighty Magnus!" she said, holding up the amulet. "I have for you this offering--!" Before she could finish her so-called "offering," a griefer above her with a black strip mask and a mohawk named TNT Dustin took out a fishing rod and hooked it out of her hand!

"Noooooooooo!" she yelled, and quickly took to the roof, trying to catch the griefer before he got away. Jesse ran after Nohr, and Axel followed close behind, carrying Reuben.

They reached the roof, and saw Dustin and Nohr laughing at the top. "Bunch 'a noobs!" she taunted, taking off again with Dustin following her. "Hey, are they going the same way?" queried Axel. "They're working together!" Jesse realized. When Nohr lost the amulet, it had all been a scam! They'd been planning this.



"This is just how we do it in Boom Town!" Dustin said as they jumped across the roofs. Then, he and Nohr split into two directions. Nohr ran to the side while he took the stairs.

"Which one took the amulet?" Jesse wondered aloud.

#### Meanwhile...

#### Nikki's POV

Nikki couldn't believe it. She and Olivia were now standing in the front of the very portal that would lead them to Redstonia. "You're about to meet the greatest redstone builders in the world!" she told Olivia "Think of that!"

"I am!" Olivia replied ecstatically. "Wow...would've thought that someday I'd really get to visit Redstonia? Ellegaard's capital city of engineering? Incredible!"



As Olivia babbled on, Nikki wondered what was happening in Boom Town right this minute, where Jesse, Reuben and Axel were. Were they alright? Had they found Magnus? Had the Wither Storm caught them first? All the questions whirled around in her mind like a modded garbage disposal gone haywire.

"Nikki? Did you hear me? Nikki? HEY!" Olivia's sudden shout brought her back to the real world. "Hey, Minecraftia to Nikki, do you read?" Olivia said again. "Huh? What? Oh yeah, what'd you say?" Nikki asked her. Olivia sighed, but repeated her question. "Do you think Ellegaard will be willing...y'know, to help us?"

"Only one way to find out,"

Facing the portal, Nikki leapt through.

#### Olivia's POV

Olivia jumped through the portal after Nikki, and found herself on a sandstone and red clay platform. They walked over to the edge of it, and a sandstone-and-red clay bridge rose up. There were redstone lamps lining the rails, lighting the way to the mainland. Once the girls had walked over there, they saw a fountain with a statue made of red-stained glass and lava. It was fashioned to look like a lightbulb. The rest of the area consisted of redstone machines, all which seemed to be unoccupied.



"Hey, where is everyone?" Nikki wondered aloud. "I thought this place was going to be stuffed with engineers." Olivia was thinking the same thing, but she tried not to show her worry. Panic was the last thing they needed at the moment. They simply had to find Ellegaard at all costs.
Suddenly, a loud call was heard.

"Builders of Redstonia!" called a strong woman's voice. "I want you to know how much I value and adore each and every one of you! Your hard work inspires me every day!" Olivia turned towards the voice, walked into a crowd of engineers, and looked up.

There, up on a balcony was a brown-haired woman with maroon lips and red and gold armor. It was Ellegaard in the flesh.

"Nikki! There she is!" Olivia squealed excitedly to her friend beside her. She couldn't believe Ellegaard herself was right there above her. She couldn't stop grinning at first, but her face fell as Ellegaard continued.

"I am about to enter my Dome of Concentration, where I will be unreachable for the foreseeable future, but I will emerge when I complete my latest and greatest creation: The Command Block!" The builders cheered at the announcement, but Nikki and Olivia shared a panicked look. How were they to warn Ellegaard when they couldn't get to her?

"So please..." Ellegaard went on. "Continue working! Continue building! And whichever person most impresses me, they shall be my protégé! Ready to help me usher in a new era of innovation and creativity!" Olivia privately would have liked to take a shot at becoming Ellegaard's protégé, but their situation was too serious. She'd have to hope for that later.

"Calvin, throw the switch!" Ellegaard commanded. A heavily bearded man with a suit walked toward a set of three switches and flicked the one in the middle. Iron blocks began to block the blue-stained window panes on the side of the dome as Ellegaard walked back in. As she did, the doorway from which she exited was also locked with iron. The red sandstone stairs were the only way up now!

"Nikki! We gotta get up there before she totally locks herself in!" she cried, already bolting for the stairs. Nikki galloped quickly after her. Halfway up, just when Olivia thought they were going to make it, pistons started to pull the stairs back in. The steps in front of them disappeared, then the ones behind them, until the only ones left were the ones the girls were standing on. With nothing else to do, they flattened themselves against the wall. Eventually, their steps were pulled into the wall too, and they plummeted to the ground.

"Ah, crap," Nikki cursed, staggering to her feet. Olivia got up too. They looked around. "Looks like we'll need to find another way in," Olivia guessed.

#### Nikki's POV

Nikki's eyes found their way to the man, Calvin. Maybe he could help them with their situation? It would take convincing though. Taking a deep breath, Nikki walked toward the bearded man, Olivia curiously following her. "Excuse me, Mr...Calvin, was it? We need to speak to Ellegaard. It's very urgent," she explained to him.

"Oh, I'm afraid that's quite impossible, little girl," Calvin said regrettably. "Did you hear the speech? She's on lockdown until she finishes her latest invention. But lucky for you, I'm here! So how can I help you?" Nikki furrowed her brow. This guy WAS a little smart.

"Maybe you could save the world instead of Ellegaard?" she asked hopefully.

Calvin hesitated. "Mmmmm...no, I'm afraid not," he said, giving the girls a guarded look. "Look, I can tell you're not from around here. Level with me—who are you? And why do you need to see Ellegaard?" Nikki tried to think of something. Saying the wrong thing could end their chances.

"I have no idea why Gabriel would--" she froze mid-thought. "That's it!"

"I have a message from Gabriel, okay?" she said. "Ellegaard's old friend?" Calvin started to look a little more interested. "Hmmm...you must admit this a sounds a little outlandish," he told her. "Is this all just part of a game with your guardian?" he asked, eyeing Olivia.

Nikki's eyes flashed minutely as she let out a patient sigh. This guy was really pushing her, but she had to keep it cool for the sake of the world. "This isn't a game," she insisted. "There must be something I can show him to prove my point. But what? I don't even have the amulet!" Nikki thought hard. There just HAD to be something else Gabriel gave her. Suddenly, she got it. Quick as a wink, Nikki yanked out the picture she had found in the temple's chest. "Look, this is Gabriel's picture. I found it in the temple where he sent us to go." Calvin turned and was immediately intrigued.

"Oh my," he said. "Well that IS interesting. If you'd like I could send that to Ellegaard. Perhaps that would help you on your mission?" Nikki shared a glance with Olivia, already planning out the pros and cons of this plan. "Might not be a bad idea..." Olivia guessed. But Nikki hesitated. Should she really give up such a precious artifact and memory?

# Back in Boom Town...

# Axel's POV

"I'll get the one with the fishing pole, you grab the little blue-haired creep!" Jesse ordered, already after Dustin. Axel nodded and ran across the same ledge Nohr was escaping across. He jumped across some small floating wood blocks, and dodged a flame. Nohr unexpectedly turned around to face him.

"Hey, know what the best time of year is to visit Boom Town?" she asked. Axel knitted his unibrow in annoyance. "Lemme guess, Fall?" he guessed, understanding the joke.

"No! Winter! But good idea!" she called, pressing a button, causing the platform that Axel was standing on to pull itself out from under him! He fell straight into a pit. "Later, dingus!" she taunted from up above him, then ran off. Axel grudgingly got to his feet.

"Only one way out of a pit..." he said to himself, pulling out some sand blocks. It was lucky he had taken some from a crater that he and Jesse had found earlier. He built his way up, leapt out

of an oversized window, and found himself face-to-face with Jesse! "Hey, did Nohr come this way?" he asked him.

"Yeah, and she had the amulet again!" Jesse snorted in annoyance. Then he peeked past Axel. "Stop right there!" he shouted. Axel turned, and saw Nohr again! She had the amulet, just like Jesse said.

"How about...no?! Ha!" she laughed, darting inside a building. She shut the iron door and blocked it up with obsidian. Axel gave the stone bricks an experimental punch, and withdrew his hand in pain. "Augh! These bricks will take forever to punch through!" he groaned. Jesse wasn't listening. He was too busy staring at the vines slithering up the wall, all the way to the roof.

"Luckily I think I've found us a punch-free entrance," he said, jumping onto the vines. Axel grabbed another set, slightly doubting they'd be able to hold him when Nohr poked her head out of a window above Jesse. "Sorry, guys, but I've been searching for Magnus for way too long for you to stop me now!" she told them half-regrettably, half-determined, rising a lighted TNT block above her head.

"Oh, bad," winced Jesse from above Axel, who abandoned the vines and ran a safe distance. "Jesse, look out!"

#### Jesse's POV

Jesse pounced out of the way just in time just as Nohr threw the TNT at him and it exploded. "Way too close!" he gasped. He continued climbing. Halfway up, Nohr was at the next window above him. "You know what you remind me of?" she said. "This song I had stuck in my head once." She pulled out another TNT block. "I just couldn't get it to go away!" She threw the TNT, and again, Jesse leapt to another line of vines.

"Gah! —Oh man!" Jesse barely had time to dodge. Once he had reached the top, he bent over and took a little breather. He then looked up, where Nohr was trying to figure out how the amulet worked.

"Okay, little amulet...show me the way," she coaxed. "Of course, not sure what I'll do when I get there, but that's Future Nohr's problem." As she was speaking, Jesse was sneaking up carefully behind her. Once he got in reach, he bolted forward and grabbed the amulet. But Nohr had a strong grip, and as soon as she recovered from her shock and surprise, she wrestled with him over the amulet.

"Give it back! This is more important than you know!" Jesse managed to grunt out as he struggled to take the amulet back. "Alright, it's official!" he promised himself. "Next time, I'm letting Nikki deal with all this amulet trouble!"

Finally, determination gave him strength, and he managed to shove Nohr backwards. He meant to pull the other way and escape with the amulet, but Nohr wasn't giving up that easily. She stubbornly clutched the amulet, and yanked them both over a TNT block, lighting it.

"Uh-oh!" she gulped.

"Not again!" moaned Jesse, who turned along with Nohr and tried to grab the amulet in front of them. But the TNT went off before either of them could grab it, and its shockwave blew them both away in different directions. Luckily, the amulet went Jesse's way, but it couldn't stay airborne as long as Jesse could, and he ended up sailing into a building window while it fell elsewhere.

"Where did it go?"

#### In Redstonia...

#### Olivia's POV

Olivia waited silently for Nikki's answer for Calvin. Whatever it would be, it could decide whether he would help them or not.

"Okay, sure. That would be great," Nikki finally said. Calvin looked pleased. He took the picture from her and dropped it in a water stream that led to a red glass-stained tube. "If I'm not mistaken, that should go straight to Ellegaard's private office," he said. But he made the girls nervous as he added "I might be wrong. Could be wrong. This place is pretty complicated." Olivia was starting to wonder if Nikki had made the right choice when she gave Calvin the picture.

"Speaking of which..." he went on, "I'm afraid I have many more things to attend to other than answering your questions. I must go." Then, he walked over to a redstone circuit next to him and grabbed a repeater, disabling it. "Better take this repeater," he said as he did so. "We don't want any tiny troublemakers disturbing Ellegaard." He glared at Nikki as if he was implying something and left.

"Wow. He's sure got a problem with kids, huh?" Olivia commented.

"No kidding. Anyways, we'll need another repeater," Nikki replied, staying on track. "Got it."

## Nikki's POV

Nikki looked around, trying to spot a repeater. She didn't find anything, though. Before she knew it, she had been searching for half an hour with no luck. Deciding to take a little break, she looked at the machines around her. Now she understood why Olivia was fangirling back in the Nether: Redstonia was amazing! She walked up to a large machine that consisted mostly of slime blocks, redstone blocks, and pistons. It seemed to be operated by a schoolboy probably 3 or 4 years older than her.

"Hmmm..." Nikki thought to herself. "If a guy his age can make a mech, then I can find a single repeater. But why is it so hard?" Shaking off her self-pity, she went to ask him if he had a repeater, because maybe it would be just that easy?



The schoolboy saw her approach and immediately started advertising his mech right off the bat.

"Hey, what's up? I am Richard. Here to see the best machine that's ever graced Redstonia's shores?" he said in an unexpectedly deep voice. Nikki was about to ask about a spare

repeater, but was taken aback by the prodigy of his machine.

"What's with this machine of yours?" she asked him. "It's freaking huge!"

"The Mighty Mech Master 9,000,000? Yeah, it's huge. It's bigger than huge. It's...immense,"

"Does it do anything other than...be big?"

"Ah, the sarcastic type, I see. For your information, it walks. I think. But most importantly, it'll nab me the spot as Ellegaard's protégé—but why am I telling you all this? For all I know you probably could be in cahoots with that disco weirdo over there!" he huffed, pointing at a nineties-looking fellow with a pink shirt, white tux, and brown afro. "I'm pretty sure he just enjoys torturing cows."

With no more to say to him, Nikki left the schoolboy and went to talk to the disco dude. Maybe he'd be more of a help. She walked up to him and, like the schoolboy, he noticed her at once.

"Hey, how's it goin', how ya doin', dudette? I'm Disco Mickey!" Disco Dude was definitely a sucker for slang. "Here to see the next great revolution in entertainment?"

"I dunno. What am I looking at, exactly?"

"This, friend o' mine, is the Bovine Lava Disco!" he said, flicking a lever behind him with a smooth twist. It dropped a curtain of lava to reveal three cows leaping up and down.



"It's the perfect fusion of my two loves: cows and music. Ellegaard's gonna see it and make me her protégé for sure!" boasted Disco Mickey.

"That's nice, but—do you have a spare repeater?"

"Sorry, shorty, but I just used my last one on this puppy. It's one of the key components to making the cows dance."

"I see...well, I'll just keep on keeping on."

"Enjoy the dancing cows! Just stay away from that little schoolboy, alright? Never had an original thought in his life."

Nikki was just about to leave when Disco Mickey called her back. "I saw you over there talking to him. What lies has he been telling you?" Normally, Nikki wouldn't want to start anything. But seeing this was her chance to swipe that repeater in his clock circuit, she didn't have much choice.

"I told him I wouldn't tell you, but...he thinks you're a cow killer. A real cow cruelty nut."

"That little—argh! I'll show him! Thanks kid."

Disco Mickey hopped off his stage and stormed over to Richard. While they exchanged some harsh words, Nikki saw her chance. She snuck over to the stage's clock circuit, and swiped the repeater. She didn't see it coming, but as soon as the repeater was gone, the lava curtain dropped onto the cows, lighting them on fire! Their panicked moos brought their owner's attention back to them. He exclaimed in shock and raced back to his invention.

"Something's gone wrong with the clock circuit! The lava isn't switching with the water!" Nikki prayed to Notch that Disco Mickey wouldn't notice the she had stolen his repeater.

"Oh no, your aMAZing invention," scoffed Richard sarcastically. Disco Mickey immediately wheeled on him.

"You! You did this!"

"Hey, I'm not taking credit for any of this! That machine's been a cow deathtrap since block one!"

As the two argued, the cows poofed into cooked steaks. "Oh my cows! My poor cows!" mourned Disco Mickey. Nikki felt bad for him, but it had been for the greater good. Fighting back guilt, she went to search for Olivia. It was time to get back on track.

## Boom Town Again...

# Jesse's POV

Jesse scoured the ground, hoping to spot the amulet somewhere, but no such luck. Suddenly, he heard voices on the floor below him. He knelt near a crack in the floor and saw two griefers arguing over the amulet. Seeing his chance, he swiped it from their hands. "I got it! I actually got it!" he cheered. He celebrated too soon. The griefers had already taken action.

"Quick! Flush him out!" said one of them, throwing a TNT block through the crack onto Jesse's floor. Gasping, Jesse tossed his head left and right, looking for an escape. The only way was a ledge. He jumped for it just as the TNT went off.

He flattened himself against the wall which the ledge was attached to, and dared to look down. A dozen griefers were already heading for him. The amulet's green bar started glowing again. Jesse turned and saw the spire. He also noticed Axel and Reuben in a small alley below him, out of sight of the griefers.

"Axel! Magnus is somewhere in that building above us! He's gotta be close!" Jesse said.

"Then quick! Toss me the amulet!" Axel asked, but Jesse hesitated. He could hardly keep it in his own hands. Would Axel do any better? "You're surrounded by griefers and they're gonna tear you apart!" Axel reminded him. Jesse looked down at the mob below him. Its numbers had grown considerably. He'd have to trust his friend.

"Just...don't lose it," he begged, passing the amulet off. Axel caught it and gazed at Jesse with a grateful look. "Hey, don't worry, I got this—you just keep them distracted," he ordered, taking off in the direction of the spire.

#### Axel's POV

Axel and Reuben climbed up a flight of stone brick stairs to finally reach a short boardwalk to the doors of the spire. Axel knew Magnus better than just a simple path, so he kept on his toes. Apparently, he wasn't careful enough, because he stepped on a pair of stone pressure plates without even noticing. Two blocks behind him rose up from the floor with activated TNT blocks on them.

"Oh, for the love of--" he didn't even get to finish his swearing before he had to leap out of the way to dodge he blast. More TNT rose beside him, and the only extra action he could make other than dodging was to grab Reuben. Even then, more rose up in front of him.

"Oh, come on!" he complained. He loved TNT a lot, but not when it was trying to kill him. He managed to run past the final TNT and leap away to safety. Axel took a breather on the ground for a bit. But his troubles were far from over. Dispenser faces rose from the ground and powered up. Axel scrabbled to his feet and raced through the arrows fired from the faces. An arrow caught his leg, but it was going to take more than that to stop the big guy. Suddenly, a pit opened up in front of him. Out of nowhere, Axel made a crazy jump, still holding Reuben. He threw the pig across, but didn't make it all the way past himself. He caught the edge, and was struggling to pull himself up, when Reuben grabbed the back of his shirt and pulled hard. With the extra help, Axel managed to haul himself onto solid ground.

"Ha...hoo boy...whoo..." Axel finally got a real chance to breathe. He heard something behind him. Turning, he saw that Jesse had made it past the griefers. "Jesse! You made it," he sighed.

"You don't have to sound so surprised," he replied. "Do you have the

amulet?" "Of course. Me and the pig, we totally rocked it,"

"Well, I'm glad everyone's safe--" Jesse paused to skeptically stare at the arrow still in Axel's leg. "Alive, I mean." He then walked over to Reuben and pat his head. "Good boy! Magnus, here we come." The group walked up to the iron doors. The boys looked at each other and shrugged, neither knowing what to do.

"Huh. Maybe it's...locked or something?" guessed Axel. "That's a thing people do to important doors, right?" Jesse didn't answer. Instead he knocked at the door. Axel didn't expect anything to happen, but surprisingly enough, the doors flew open, though no one had answered them. "Fine. Knocking worked, for once," Axel presumed. He and Jesse went through. They had no idea what happened next. No sooner they were in the entrance, trapdoors opened up, causing them to fall below!

#### Redstonia once more...

#### Nikki's POV

Nikki trotted back over to the door controls. She placed the repeater down and watched as it powered the redstone dust on the floor. She then flicked the levers, one by one, and each one pushed the steps back out, opened the windows, then the doors. She saw Olivia running back to the same location. "Nikki!" she exclaimed. "I got a repeater! Now we can—oh," she stopped mid-sentence when she saw everything open again. "I see you beat me to it."

"Yeah...but what did you do?"

"Well, I talked to this girl named Mabel, who had this cow-a-pult machine, and it was annoying to this auto-farmer named Gloria next door, so she asked if I could take it down. I had no intention to at first, but then I talked to this old man named Wilfred, who gave me some redstone dust, and I accidentally blew up his TNT cannon, which destroyed the cow-a-pult, so Gloria gave me some redstone torches as a thank-you, and, after finding some stone in the old man's chest, I crafted a repeater,"

"Wow. That's quite the adventure,"

"Yeah, I also got these cow spawn eggs from when the cow-a-pult exploded, but I don't think we need them,"

Cows. Nikki remembered the cows in Disco Mickey's Bovine Lava Disco. She felt really bad for stealing that repeater. She simply HAD to make it up to him. "Actually, Olivia, could I have that repeater? The spawn eggs, too; I have someone to...repay."

Confused, but understanding, Olivia handed over the items, and Nikki went off to find the Lava Disco. When she got there, she saw Disco Mickey still on his knees in the middle of the stage, sobbing. She walked up to him and tapped his shoulder.

"\*Sniff,\* wha--what? What are you doing here, kid?" he sniffled.

"I...um...saw what happened to your cows. So...I got you a repeater, and some spawn eggs," "Huh?! Really?!"



Disco Mickey scrambled to his feet and took the gifts. "Aw, that's mighty groovy of you to offer, young'un," he said gratefully. "I'm in your debt." Nikki scratched her head shyly. "No, that's fine," she said. "I was the one who stole the repeater in the first place, so I guess we're even." Nikki started for the Dome of Concentration again, but Disco Mickey waved her to a stop. What did he want now?

"Hey, squirt, a little tip: help Ellegaard build that command block! We'd all like to see it with our own eyes,"

"...Uh, sure," Puzzled, Nikki went back to the Dome.

## Olivia's POV

Olivia climbed up the red sandstone stirs to Ellegaard's Dome of Concentration. The moment where she would meet her idol was growing closer. And her excitement was growing right along with it. She and Nikki went through the entrance, headed down a flight of gray stairs, and entered some sort of room.

"Wow. Here it is. Ellegaard's redstone laboratory," she said. "Eh, seems more like an entrance foyer or something," Nikki revoked. "I just hope she can help us."

Without another word, the girls started experimenting with two levers fastened to the walls. Nikki flicked one while Olivia flicked the other, but they only started moving gray-looking sand with pistons rapidly in a wavelike motion. It opened up a red door in front of them, revealing the most bizarre and complicated lab that Olivia had ever seen. Nikki seemed taken by it too.

"This has might be the most redstone...stuff...I've ever seen in my life," she gasped.

"You can say that again," Olivia agreed. The pair pressed on. Oliva ran through a gold archway. But it wasn't an archway at all. For when Nikki tried to pass, they started opening and closing rapidly.

"Gah! What are THESE things even for?!" she huffed, trying to identify a way past. "Maybe...I don't know. Breaking things up, keeping intruders out—there's a lot of possibilities," "Yeah, but not a lot of ways through! How do I get over?"

"I saw a repeater while I was crossing over. Try messing with it,"

"Worth a shot!"

Olivia watched pensively as Nikki clicked the repeater she had spoken of. The gold blocks mashed more slowly.

"Okay, almost...definitely a step in the right direction,"

Nikki clicked the repeater again. Now the blocks moved slowly enough for her to pass. Olivia held her breath as in one speedy leap, she cleared the crushing gold blocks and made it on the other side.

"Nicely done, Nikki," she complimented. "You're pretty good at this." "Hey, what can I say?" Nikki shrugged her shoulders. "Me and the redstone just...speak to each other."

"Uh-huh..."

Olivia stared at multiple tubes that blew different items to the center of the lab. "She's moving a LOT of different ingredients around here," Olivia noticed. "Man, look at all this, huh?" she said aloud. "Any idea what it does?" asked Nikki.

"It's clearly taking all of these materials and doing...something...with them. I'm not sure what, but boy, are we gonna find out,"

"Come on, then. Let's keep moving,"

The girls continued on their journey through the Dome of Concentration. They came to a lava

curtain, similar to the one at the Bovine Lava Disco Nikki had been talking about. Nikki flipped a lever next to it, and it fell.

"That's awesome," Olivia breathed.

"Just like the one that Disco Mickey had," Nikki commented.

"What?"

"I'll tell you later,"

Behind the lava curtain was a zipper of some sort. Olivia flicked the lever next to it, since they seemed to be helping so much, and the zipper opened up to show a water chute. The girls swam up, unsure of what waited ahead.

# **Chapter 6: Meet the Order**

Welp, it's about high-time Jesse and company met the Order! Wonder what changes Nikki will alter into the story as we know already?

# Jesse's POV

Jesse fell flat on his face on a beam of obsidian with sand stripes across it. He heard a thud behind him that let him know Axel fell too. Then, Reuben's oink of fear grew louder, until he landed on Axel, then Jesse, propelling the amulet out of his pocket, and onto the other side of the beam. Getting up, Jesse walked across to get it. But someone crept up to a set of levers on the wall opposite to them.

"You are completely surrounded by hundreds of hidden death traps," the mysterious figure warned. "One step forward, and KABOOM!" He flicked the first lever, pushing prepared-to-be-lit TNT in front of the boys, blocking their way. Taken by surprise, Jesse fell onto his back, nervously looking down at the lava beneath him and his friends.

The figure picked up the amulet and stood straight to reveal the face of—



"It's Magnus! We totally just got caught by Magnus!" Axel fanboyed. Jesse turned to give him a withering stare, which he hoped made Axel realize what danger they were in. Axel got the message. "Err...um...I think we're gonna die now."

"Did you really think you could sneak up on me?" Magnus scoffed. "You're two of the worst griefers I've ever met. And a pig?!" he sniffed, pointing at Reuben. "Hardly stealthy."

"Hey, no griefers here," Jesse assured. "Noooooo way. We came from way out of town to find you."

"Oh, really?" Magnus growled disbelievingly. "I mean, that guy?" he jabbed a finger at Axel. "He's got 'griefer' written all over him." The rogue tossed the amulet back and forth teasingly.

"Man, you don't know how much that means to me," Axel swooned dreamily.

"That's because he's your biggest fan!" Jesse explained desperately. "Look at him!" Magnus peered an amused eye at Axel. "I mean, not like, 'biggest' fan..." Axel added awkwardly.

"We have an amulet that led us straight to you,"

"Yeah, that's a pretty good one. That's Gabriel's, right?" Magnus seemed to sound more into what they were talking about now.

"This is all sounding pretty weird, dudes..." he said, re-flicking the first lever. It sent the TNT wall into the lava moat below. Seeing his chance, Jesse raced for the other side. It wasn't a smart move. "Who are you really?" Magnus suddenly questioned, flicking the next lever, pushing up another TNT mini-wall. "And why are you here?"

"The world is being destroyed,"

"...You have me intrigued. Go on..." Magnus pulled the second lever again, sending the mini-wall away.

"There's a huge monster eating up the entire world, and nothing can stop it," Jesse explained as he crept forward slowly to avoid startling Magnus out of their trust. "That's why Gabriel told us to reunite the Order." Magnus still looked disdainful. "Magnus, you've got to come with us. You may be the only chance we have!"

Magnus's response was to flick the next lever in line. "Give me one good reason, for even a second, why I should go with you," he ordered.

"You're supposed to be a hero, Magnus, and right now, the world needs a hero. You can come with us and help stop this disaster,"

"...All this...stuff, you've told me...you expect me to just take your word for it? Think about it! Two strangers with wild stories, and nothing to show for it,"

"Magnus, every word of what I'm saying is true. You have to believe me!" "Why should I? I have a kingdom to rule here!"

Jesse lost his last scrap of patience. "Are you really that paranoid?!" he snapped. "There's a crazy Wither Storm on the loose, my sister and my friends are out there all alone, and I've already lost someone I really, really cared about to that thing! Why can't you see we need your help?!" Magnus' eyes widened. "I couldn't care less if you're bent on blowing things up! I just can't stand to watch anyone or anything else get killed!" Jesse went on savagely. "So with or without you, I will do EVERYTHING I can to bring that thing down!"

At first, Magnus just stared blankly at no one in particular. No one said a word, until Axel broke the silence by saying, "Well said, dude."

Magnus seemed moved by the speech too, for he turned back to the last lever and pulled it again. "Alright, alright, you sold me. I'm in!"

## Somewhere in Redstonia...

# Olivia's POV

Olivia and Nikki reached the top of the zipper and made it to the top floor. Olivia stepped out and saw Ellegaard in front of her, working on something. It took every ounce of her strength to keep herself from fangirling.



"This is just like I dreamt it," Olivia whispered to Nikki. "Entering Ellegaard's redstone laboratory, seeing her—right there! She'll ask me to be her apprentice, and the next thing you know, we'll be changing the world together."

"Then let's make sure we actually have a world to change," Nikki reminded her of the mission.

"Time to pace back and forth to check the systems," Ellegaard said. She had a stiff voice. "Inventory request? Operational. Delivery latency? Speedy. Still talking to myself? Yep! Alright, here we go!"

Nikki walked up to her, because Olivia was frozen in her spot. It was hard enough trying to keep herself from squealing in excitement. Before Nikki even had a chance to speak, though, Ellegaard turned and saw the little girl. "Whoa! Hi! Hey! How'd you get in here, kiddo? Didn't see you sneaking up on me—I guess that's the point. Is it 'Take Your Kids to Work Day' today? Never mind, it doesn't matter. Just don't touch anything in here, okay? It's all SUPREMELY fragile and genius."

She said it all in such a rush, that Olivia was only able to remember half of what she said. Nikki looked too flustered to catch all of it. And she wasn't done yet. "Did Calvin send you?" she asked Olivia. "Are you my new assistant? New assistant with a stupidly adorable little kid, that is?" she was referring to Nikki, of course. The 14-year-old looked like she didn't know whether to be offended or flattered.

"Assistant! She's asking me to be her assistant!" she shrieked inwardly. Her outward astonishment kept her from pouncing off the walls. Nikki wasn't getting sidetracked, though. "Ellegaard--" she began, but Ellegaard started up again.

"No time for specifics, I'm afraid," she told Nikki. "Hey, you. Goggle Girl," she said, pointing to Olivia. "Switch on that T-flop circuit to activate the delivery chutes." Olivia could only stare open-mouthed. This was going better than she expected it to. "And you, Non-Goggle Girl," Ellegaard continued to Nikki. "Grab me a blaze rod and an iron block." After giving out her commands, she turned back to her work.

"She wants me to do something for her," Olivia mumbled anxiously to Nikki. "What if I screw it up? What if I...oh I feel...lightheaded..." The lab began to spin, and her vision faded black. The melodrama became too much to bear, and Olivia sank into a dead faint.



## Nikki's POV

\*Plop!\* Olivia fell straight to the floor beside Nikki. Ellegaard turned and saw what had happened. "Wow. Now I need an assistant to help with my assistant! Think you can handle it on your own?" she asked Nikki. She nodded, and Ellegaard went back to work.

Nikki decided it would be best to turn on the chute and get the items first, just to butter Ellegaard up. So she pushed a button that activated the delivery chute and then flicked two levers that sent the items into the chest dropper. She was about to speak to Ellegaard when she nearly tripped over Olivia. Her friend was still out cold.

"Olivia? Olivia, can you hear me?" she asked as Olivia began to come to. "I don't think that I've ever fainted before..." she said slowly. "Ugh, so embarrassing." Nikki could understand where she was coming form. Fainting right in front of her hero must have put her in an all-time low.

"Everything working over—oh! Hmmm..." Ellegaard had seen that Olivia was awake. Nikki could practically feel the waves of heat emanating off her. "Fine, I'll do it myself," Ellegaard huffed impatiently before turning to the T-flop and flicking the lever. Poor Olivia facepalmed and cast a pitiful look at Nikki, who gave her a comforting look in return. 4 crafting tables attached to pistons contracted together and started to form a faded version of the command block, but it quickly fizzled out.

"Ugh! Trial #6,451...another bust!" moaned Ellegaard. "Now, about you girls..." she said to Nikki and Olivia. "Your friend here..." she asked Nikki. "Does she fall over frequently? Is this going to be a regular occurrence?" Olivia seemed flustered and inhibited. "I...no, I'm sorry," she apologized. "I was just so excited to--" Olivia didn't get far before being interrupted again.

"And with me always pacing around, lost in my own <u>brilliant</u> thoughts, I could have tripped over you and conked my brain!" Ellegaard scolded. Olivia couldn't seem to go down any lower. Nikki was hacked off at Ellegaard for snapping at her friend that way, and she wasn't going to let it slip.

"Hey! Take it easy, Ellegaard," she said. "It's not her fault she was so excited. Besides, we've got bigger problems right now. We actually need your help!"

"Help? With what?"

"There's a giant Wither Storm, and it's attacking the entire world,"

"A Wither-what? What are you talking about? Who—who sent you?"

"Gabriel did. We have no idea where he is now, though,"

"Look, you girls seem like <u>very</u> pleasant people—who are prone to fainting—but I simply don't have the brain power for this. Right now, I'm in the middle of my greatest project to date—a powerful block capable of altering reality itself!"

"Yeah, we have an acronym for that already," Nikki said. "It's called a command block." Ellegaard was astonished.

"Wait-wait-wait-wait-wait-wait—how do YOU know what a command block is?"

"I've seen one before. It was Ivor's, and he's done something terrible with it. The world needs the Order of the Stone. That's why we're here!"

Ellegaard hesitated for a few moments, then her pupils dilated in realization. "Ohhhhhhh...!" she said, racing to a small corner. "You're the ones who brought this!" She came back with the picture of the Order members. "It just came up here. No note, no nothing, and I was terribly curious about where it came from!"

"Yes! The picture from the temple! I found it in its library!"

Finally, Ellegaard seemed to understand. "Yes...this is serious indeed..." she said, handing back the picture. For a moment, Nikki thought she had gotten through to her. But Ellegaard wasn't finished. "All the more reason why I need to finish my command block! I can use it to fight this...Wither...thing!"

"Is that even possible?" Nikki wondered aloud. "Can you really do that?"

"This is THE Ellegaard you're talking to, and I will make a command block, to-day!" "A command block is the reason we're in this mess, though!"

"True, your Wither Storm problem was caused by this block, which ALSO means it's the perfect way of beating it!"

"And that means--" Olivia tried to say, giving it one more shot with Ellegaard, but failed as she walked right past her to Nikki.

"Will you help me make one?" she asked the young girl. Now Nikki thought carefully about this. Making a block that was hard for even Ellegaard to craft would be extremely time-consuming. But the Storm was powerful now, and the only way off stopping it was long gone ever since Axel stole and misfired the potion Ivor made as an emergency. Maybe another command block would give them a shot? After all, she HAD promised Disco Mickey she would help build one.

"Great! Let's do it!" she finally declared. The three girls put their hands out, but when Olivia put hers over Ellegaard's, the redstone engineer gave her a hard look. "Don't worry, Olivia," Nikki assured silently. "Helping her out will put you in a better place."

Wise words, my OC. Well, Magnus and Ellegaard have successfully been pacified! We can only hope for the best now!

# **Chapter 7: The Block of Death**

Ignore the foreboding title. No one's gonna die. But, something CRAZY does indeed happen...

# Axel's POV

Axel grinned cheerfully at Jesse. They had actually done it! Magnus was on their side, and they were one step closer to saving the world.

"Oh, but we might have a <u>little</u> problem getting out of here," Magnus chuckled nervously. "Huh? You're Magnus. You can just walk out of here," Axel protested.

"Hello? I don't know if you've looked around this place, but it's KINDA full of griefers,"

"But...that's kind of awesome...right?"

"Hehehe...no. You've heard about the whole "Challenging the King for his Crown," thing, right? It's kinda their thing. So long as I'm king, I can't leave this tower,"



"What if we sneak you out?" suggested Jesse, but Magnus shook his head.

"They'll spot me. Look, I'm too good, and they're too eager. It's like a vicious cycle that keeps me here. Simply put, that's life as King of Boom Town!"

"Then let one of them win!" Axel said, getting desperate. If Magnus didn't leave, he'd basically be counting himself out on their plan.

"Nope. I've beaten them dozens of times, and none of them are worthy. They'll see right through it." Magnus hesitated, then looked at Jesse. "But you...you're the newcomer with the golden amulet. By now, there'll probably be all sorts of rumors about how awesome you are!"

Axel frowned. He was hoping that Magnus would say the same thing about him. After all, Magnus HAD thought he was a griefer at first.

"If you beat me..." Magnus went on. "I'll be able to leave!"

"That sounds awesome, let's do it!" Jesse seemed hyped for this idea. Axel couldn't blame him. "Lucky stud," he muttered under his breath.

"Ooh, this is gonna be good!" Magnus cheered. "I'm actually excited about this! But we gotta make sure it looks legit." The rogue broke out a massive grin. "The Death Bowl has NEVER seen the carnage we're about to create!"

"Erm...what's the Death Bowl?" asked Axel.

## Jesse's POV

"THIS is the Death Bowl!" Magnus declared, spreading his arms out to an arena they had suddenly scene-jumped to. Griefers were all around, whooping and yelling.

"WELCOME LADIES AND GENTLEGRIEFERS, TO THE DEATH BOWL!" said an announcer in black with white glasses. "IN ONE CORNER, WE HAVE MAGNUS, YOUR KING OF BOOM TOWN, PREPARED TO DEFEND HIS TITLE AND CROWN!" Magnus waved to his fans, and everyone cheered back. Jesse all of a sudden had silverfish in his stomach.

"So, Tiny," Magnus said to him. "Welcome to the Death Bowl. The Grief-Off to end all grief-offs. So, how do you wanna fake this?" Jesse may have been nervous, but at least he had a plan.

"We'll start off small, and then I'll throw some TNT at you—just let it graze you and then we'll call it a finish, alright?" Jesse didn't want this fight to last long.

"Okay, something about TNT. Awesome," Magnus replied, giving Jesse the sinking feeling he wasn't really listening. "And you!" the announcer said to Jesse. "What name do YOU go by?!" Now Jesse thought about this one for a moment, then said the first thing that came out of his head.

"I am Jesse the Destroyer! And I am here to destroy my competition!" The announcer seemed satisfied. "You heard the name, folks! Now give a big Death Bowl welcome to—THE

DESTROYER!" At the announcer's command, all the griefers went nuts for Jesse, making him feel a little more confident.

"Then let's begin!" continued the announcer. "Opponents will craft their own griefing towers, which they will then use to grief each other. The only rule is--"

"That there are no rules!" screamed a daring griefer from the sidelines. But the announcer didn't say so. "No eye-poking!" he said, making the other griefers "boo." "Otherwise, go crazy! Seriously. Now, Destroyer! Pick your building material! And Magnus, you--"

"Nah, I'm good," Magnus said. "Brought my own supply."

"Then, LET THE GRIEFING BEGIN!" the announcer shouted. The griefers yowled with delight. Jesse and Magnus went to their respective sides. Jesse went over to some chests that held his choices. "Wood...some stone...and some pink wool?" Reuben trotted up to the pink wool chest and prodded it eagerly. He seemed to want to choose this one.

But Jesse knew better. He walked over to the middle chest. "Stone it is," he decided. Jesse started building his tower. Once he finished, he looked over at Magnus's, and saw that it was about the same as his. "Hmmm, not bad, not bad. I guess it'll have to do." Jesse squinted over Magnus's side, and saw that Axel was on his side!

"Axel! What are you doing over there?!" he snapped. Axel saw Jesse and looked guilty.

"Yeah, thought you might bring that up. It's just that Reuben wanted to take YOUR corner, and I didn't wanna crowd him or anything, so I thought I'd...um...watch form over here." That was the lamest excuse Jesse had ever heard, but it didn't matter. He had a grief-off to win.

"Take your best shot!" challenged Magnus. Jesse picked up one of the eggs, and flipped it confidently. He then chucked it in Magnus's direction as hard as he could. It sailed harmlessly past the rogue. "And that's how you shouldn't throw an egg!" he told the crowd. Everyone booed and laughed at him.

"Ha! You grief with me, you grief with the best!" Magnus huffed. He turned his back on Jesse, and, seeing his chance, he chucked a second egg, one which had more luck than the first. It hit Magnus square in the back of his head, knocking him on his face and hatching a baby chicken.

"I am about to destroy you, Destroyer!" he snarled. "Is that what they call 'ironic?!"

"Luckily you can't and WON'T destroy me, so we won't have to find out!" Jesse shot back. Magnus kicked the baby chicken off his tower and walked to his mini-cannon.

"You are but a student! Prepare yourself, for I am here to give you your final lesson!" he declared, flicking the lever mounted atop the piston. The TNT flew at Jesse, but fell halfheartedly well away from his tower. Jesse only yawned, like Nikki said to do to make you feel and look cool about a troubling situation. The TNT hit the announcer instead, sending him into a pit.

"Err, um, that was just a warning--" Magnus tried to say, but the crowd wasn't convinced.

"What? A warning that you need glasses?!" a griefer shouted from the bleachers. Jesse enjoyed a good laugh, both at Magnus and with joy that his sister's advice had worked, then went on. "It seems that the student has become the master, and the Mighty Destroyer will win the day!" he announced.

"I don't know what that means, but I love it, and want to put it on a t-shirt!" another griefer said from the bleachers. Feeling fully confident now, Jesse went to his TNT cannon and prepared to graze Magnus so they could get moving. He pulled the lever to his mini-cannon, and watched the show. But, apparently, it had a sudden plot-twist. Magnus saw the TNT coming and bounced it back at him with slime blocks. Jesse had to duck to stay alive.

"But...what happened to getting hit by my TNT?" he wondered worriedly.

"Nobody messes with the BOOM MASTER!" Magnus retorted loudly. He seemed sincere about it.

"Uh oh," gulped Jesse.

## Back at Redstonia...

#### Olivia's POV

The three females started to work on the command block. Ellegaard flicked a few levers and the respective items went into the chest. She backed up to give Nikki some room to try. Nikki eyeballed the levers, then tilted her head towards them, gesturing Olivia to do it instead. Olivia was glad to have Nikki for a friend. She pulled several levers, and the materials went into the chest as well. She took some coal, and nether crystal. Ellegaard got some bricks and nether crystal, while Nikki grabbed some lapis, an emerald, and redstone dust. While walking to the crafting tables, Olivia tripped. She sighed; this was becoming a regular thing, and it wasn't fun. Finally, when all the ingredients were in place, Ellegaard gave the signal, then pushed a button. At the same time, Olivia pushed a button opposite of her, and Nikki flicked the T-flop circuit on. The crafting tables converged to make a faded version of the command block. Once again, it phased out. The girls shared a look of steely determination.

It started again: the lever-flicking, the chest-digging, the table-crafting, and finally, the T-flop activation. Try number 2 became a bust as well, but they weren't stopping now. Again, they repeated the entire process. The 4 tables went together again to form the faded block. But this time, it didn't fizzle out right away. It kept on going.

"Okay, okay! Excellent! Good! This is so exciting!" squealed Ellegaard. "Terribly exciting!"

"Has it gotten this far before?" Olivia asked.

"No! Never!"

Olivia and Nikki stared at each other with wide eyes. Had they really done it? Was the command block really becoming whole? Then, something strange happened. The block began to get smaller and smaller, but it still didn't fade away.

"Is it...shrinking?" Ellegaard said, confused. This didn't make sense. Right at that moment, the command block popped into life. It fell from the T-flop and clattered to the ground. But it wasn't full size. It wasn't even a command block anymore.

"It's a...command block amulet?" Nikki stammered. "I don't get it!"



"Neither do I. How is this possible? This amulet hasn't been around for years!" Ellegaard spluttered. "Better yet, how did the redstone machines re-summon it?"

"Redstone machines? This is more like the work of Notch; a miracle!" Olivia concluded. There was no sensible way for what just happened. While the girls queried over the command block amulet,

they heard a low growl. Then, a long, black tentacle stuck out from the side of the lab wall and thrashed about!

Olivia almost froze completely. The Wither Storm was here!

## Nikki's POV

"RUN!" Olivia shrieked, bulleting for the exit. Ellegaard just stood frozen.

"Ellegaard, come ON!" Nikki cried to the fearful engineer. She pushed the older woman back into her senses and towards the exit. Nikki whipped around to glance at the terrifying monster and her eye caught the command block amulet. As if she was being drawn by a magnet, Nikki raced back and picked it up before turning, dodging one of the tentacles, and making a break for it.

"We need to go!" ordered Ellegaard as Nikki put the amulet around her neck and joined the other two. "We need to get to the portal!" She turned scared, but also guilty eyes on Nikki. "I'm sorry," she said, her voice cracking. "So...so sorry."

The three left the Dome and raced down the stairs. The tractor beam passed over them when Nikki was halfway down, breaking it away. Nikki was going too fast to stop, so she made a crazy leap over the gap, and continued running.

"The portal! Hurry!" Ellegaard cried, running for the bridge. Nikki did her best to follow, but with the Wither Storm tearing Redstonia apart all around them, it was hard! Just then she heard familiar voices cry for help. She couldn't help but whirl around to see what it was. To her horror, she saw that Disco Mickey and Richard were captured in the Storm's tentacles!

"Hey! Dudette! Help us!" wailed Disco Mickey, spotting her.

"Please! I don't want to be Wither food!" sobbed Richard.

"No! Leave them alone!" she shouted at the Wither Storm. It turned one of its massive heads at Nikki, and swung another tentacle at her. Nikki leapt out of the way, but the tip of the arm caught her ankle. It snapped like a whip, sending a shockwave of agonizing pain through her. Nikki fell on her back, her ankle burning. She managed to stand, but her friends were still captured. She was feeling so hopeless.

At that moment, Nikki felt an abrupt ferocity brew inside, the pain in her ankle gone. Her eyes narrowed, with steely fire blazing there. The command block amulet around her neck glimmered bright yellow with power.

"Let...them...GO!!!!!!!!!!!!" she roared. As the last word came out, Nikki morphed. Her body glowed golden and grew bigger and more solid. Her face evolved into a long snout. Two wings and a tail sprouted. Her last word trailed off into an actual roar, one that blew the Wither Storm back and forced it to release Disco Mickey and Richard!



Olivia and Ellegaard whirled around to see what the noise was coming from—and were bewildered at what they saw there! Where Nikki had been, in her place, stood a golden, roaring Ender Dragon! Ellegaard looked especially astounded.

Rearing back, the Wither Storm stopped attacking everything and

fled as fast as it could. But Disco Mickey and Richard weren't safe yet. They plummeted to the ground, but Nikki, or the golden Ender Dragon, seemingly, swept her large tail under them, catching them mid-air, and safely depositing them on the undamaged part of the ground.

Once her Redstonia friends were safe, the golden dragon faded away, until all that remained was Nikki again. "Holy mother of Notch...what WAS that?" she gasped. The glow from the amulet disappeared along with the dragon.

"Quick question, Nikki—HOW THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT?!" Olivia shrieked. "Lower the volume, Olivia! I don't know either!" Nikki retorted.

"I...It doesn't even...How did...How even..." Ellegaard was too stunned for words. Nikki turned to the redstone engineer. "What?"

"Me...the Order...all of us...we've been taught about it, but never saw it for ourselves before...how...?"



"You KNOW what that dragon was?!"

"...Soren did, anyway. I forgot all about it. We...we should get moving. Your ankle looks bad," Everyone was stunned. They stared at Nikki as she limped into the Nether portal. Not only had a gold-colored Ender Dragon saved them from a monster, but that dragon came out from a single little girl. And not even she could explain how or why.

# Olivia's POV

Olivia and the other two neared the temple. She still couldn't get over what had happened back at Redstonia. She wondered what it had looked like through Nikki's eyes, to turn into a dragon. Anyways, they'd find out about it later. Nikki going super-saiyan was the first of another surprise.

"Lukas! Hey!" Olivia waved to the former Ocelot.

"Olivia! Nikki! You're back! You guys got Ellegaard? Why is Nikki limping? Is Zephyr back with you? He was here earlier, but he left to--"

"Slow down, Lukas," Olivia replied." Have we got a story to tell you!"

"That's nice. We can exchange surprises then!"

#### Boom Town...

## Axel's POV

Worried that he might be hurt, Axel raced over to Jesse's tower. "Jesse! Jesse, you okay?" "Had enough yet?!" Magnus called over, not giving Jesse a chance to answer. "What happened to the part about throwing the fight?!" Jesse called back. "What say you, noob?! I am king, and those who challenge me will be annihilated!"

Axel suddenly had a sinking feeling about Magnus's change of behavior. "Um, Jesse? I think he's lost it."

"Magnus! Craft a cannon!" shouted a sideline griefer.

"Yeah! Finish him with a cannon!" agreed another.

"If it's a cannon you want, then it's a cannon you'll get!" Magnus promised, making everyone cheer and Axel even more nervous.

"Yep, he's completely lost it—dude's going for the kill. Jesse, you'd better craft, like, the greatest thing of your life! Right now!"

"Well, there's some material in the chest," Axel overheard Jesse mumble to himself. He went over and dug out some leftover stone. Then, he started crafting a wall with a two-block wide opening. At first, Axel thought Jesse would be okay. But he was dumb enough to let his eyes wander over to Magnus's tower, which had changed dramatically.

"Hey, Axel! Check it out!" Jesse called Axel back to him. The shield he had made looked pitiful compared to Magnus now. But Jesse didn't seem to notice. "Ha! That should hold him!"

"Um...it's, um...yeah it might do," Axel stammered. "But Jesse, look!" Jesse did raise his head to see Magnus's tower, and his self-assurance faded at once. Magnus was sitting in a protective skull tower with lava pouring out of the nose, a fire burning in his eyes.

"But he was supposed to throw the fight..." Axel whimpered through gritted teeth. He had a feeling that Jesse was in huge trouble.

# Jesse's POV

Jesse dodged the many blows coming from Magnus. He was flicking the cannon levers like nuts. His friends immediately took action. Axel started digging in one of the chests, trying to find something helpful, and Reuben raced to the other side to distract Magnus.

"You're going up against the King of the Griefers, and you pick stone?!" Magnus taunted Jesse. "Ha!" As he said this, Reuben hopped onto his platform and angrily squealed at him. "Get off!



No pigs allowed!" Magnus growled, the fire in his eyes gone for a brief moment.

"Stuff! I got cool stuff coming your way!"
Axel called over. He pulled his head out of
the chest holding an arrow. "I got an arrow
for your bow! I think it's enchanted or
something!" He tossed it up to Jesse. "An
arrow? In a cannon fight?!" Jesse uttered
disbelievingly. "Axel, there are all sorts of

clichéd lines about this!"

"Yeah, but the TNT! Inside the cannon!" Axel drew Jesse's attention to the TNT behind the mouth of the skull.

"TNT plus arrow..." Jesse now saw where Axel was headed with this.

"Time to see how well you fly, pig!" Magnus declared, the fire in his eyes returning. He placed Reuben onto one of the cannon launchers.

"Reuben!" gasped Jesse. Magnus flicked the lever and launched his pet pig! Reuben went flying through the air, but Axel took charge. He ran backwards and caught Reuben. Once he was sure that his best friend was safe, Jesse turned on the former Order member. "Hey, Magnus!" "Yeah, short stuff?!"

Jesse leapt of the higher part of the debris of his tower. He drew his new arrow back. "Flying pig jokes are totally overrated," he muttered darkly. Magnus laughed evilly and continued mercilessly firing TNT at him, but Jesse jump-dodged the explosions, and shot the arrow in midair! It whizzed through the sky like a bullet, but it fell short! "No!"

"Not a bad try, but now comes your demise!" Magnus hollered over, looking triumphantly wicked. But before he could even reach for the lever, a large, golden shockwave appeared out of the horizon and passed over Boom Town. When it hit, it brought the loud roar of a dragon. It caused many people to fall over on the bleachers. Those who remained standing covered their ears at the sound of its ferocity. The wave slammed into Magnus's tower at full force, shattering it into little bits. There wasn't much left of Jesse's tower to destroy, so he was mostly left alone. But Magnus's tower was completely demolished, leaving nothing for him to even stand on, and causing the rogue to smash to the ground.

As soon as it had come, the golden wave had vanished. The deafening roar was gone too. Jesse stayed clutching onto the single block that had survived the roar. Magnus got to his feet, looking a little miffed, but relieved inside. The announcer climbed out of the pit, glanced around, and grinned.

"WE HAVE A WINNER!" he bellowed. "THE DESTROYYYYYYYER!" The griefers recovered from the roar and applauded for Jesse. He waved back at them, then leapt off his single remaining block. Axel and Reuben ran forward to congratulate him. "You gonna say something there, champ?" asked the announcer. Jesse guessed it wouldn't be too much harm to say a word or two.

"Hellooooooo, Boom Town! How we all doing today?!" Jesse called to his new fans. They went crazy for him. All of a sudden, the mood changed, and the griefers readied her weapons.

"Welp, you guys ready then?" said a griefer.

"Yeah! This'll be a WAY easier target than Magnus!" another agreed.

"Wait...what's going on?" Axel asked worriedly. That's when Jesse remembered what Magnus had said back in the spire. "You've heard about the whole "Challenging the King for his Crown," thing, right? It's kinda their thing. So long as I'm king, I can't leave this tower."

"Oh, well, that's not good," gulped Jesse. Now HE'D be the one stuck here. Before the griefers could strike, an all-too-familiar growl sounded out.

"Ho-ly CRAP!" Magnus yelped. "Is THAT your Wither Storm?!" Jesse and Axel turned around and saw the monster there! The Storm had come to Boom Town! It started sucking up griefers and debris in its tractor beam. "How are we...what are we...that's—GARGH!" Magnus could hardly think.

"Oh no. Oh, no!" Jesse knew this was nowhere near good. They had to get out of here! "No! No no no no no no no! NO, no!" Magnus was reeling off on a different variety of "no's." "Stop eating my kingdom!" Magnus ordered. The Wither Storm wasn't to intent on listening.

"Magnus, come on!" Jesse urged, grabbing the rogue and turning him to the direction of the Nether portal.

"You'll regret messing with Boom Town!" Magnus vowed as he ran.

"GO!"

And then there was the command block amulet! Finally it has made its debut! Will Nikki ever be able to control it? Well, enough about that, I have good news! The holiday stories have been recovered and will continue! Bad news? Well...it might be a LITTLE while before they're ready for the final copy. Okay, a LOT while. A good writer makes changes to a story with potential. And I'd like to be a good writer! So I hope you can stick to the main storyline until Book 8!

# **Chapter 8: Surprises and Superstitions**

Hope you Jetra and Lukesse fans are ready for the incoming cuteness I'm about to whack you upside the head with! :D

# Lukas' POV

Lukas sat atop the watchtower, awaiting Jesse's return. He couldn't believe what had happened at Redstonia. Was it true? Or was Nikki's imagination running wild again? Just then, he heard noises below him, then a hiss of a creeper. Acting fast, he fit 5 arrows inside his bow, drew, and fired. The creeper was dead in an instant. Now to take care of the intruders.

"Who goes there?!" he called down. Then, Lukas took a second look. "Jesse, is that you?"

"Yeah!" Jesse replied. "Lukas, did you build all of this?"

"Well...yeah. I figured I would try to fortify the place, y'know?"

"Nice!"

"I'm so glad you're back!"

"And we brought Magnus!"

"Fantastic!"

Jesse, Reuben, Axel, and Magnus went to the iron doors, where Lukas ran down to meet them, eager to share some exciting news. "Quick, come on! You guys are never going to believe who showed up while you were gone!" Lukas stepped aside as the others came in to reveal the person.

## Petra's POV

Petra leaned against the mossy wall of the temple. When Lukas opened the door, her face brightened when she saw who was standing there. It was Jesse, and he had Reuben, Axel, and someone new, probably Magnus, with him.

"Petra!" Jesse exclaimed, equally pleased to see her.

"Hey, guys. How's it going?"

Reuben oinked gleefully and ran in circles around her. Once he was just about done, Petra kneeled down to pet him. "Petra! You made it!" Axel said joyfully, wrapping her in a bear hug, which Petra did her best to tolerate. "It's good to see you too, big guy," she said when he finally released her. "And it's really good to see you, Jesse," she continued, embracing him around his neck. He put his arms around her waist in return. Secretly, Petra wished that they could stay like this forever.

"I missed you so much," he whispered into her ear.

"I missed you too," she breathed back. When they parted, much to her regret, Petra explained how she had escaped the Wither Storm.



"If you hadn't saved me...well..." Petra's cheeks went pink. "I owe you everything, Jesse." It was just a guess, but Petra could've sworn Jesse's face looked the tiniest bit redder. Unexpectedly, Petra no longer noticed anyone else in the room. The room itself wasn't even there anymore. The scene from when they had ran from the Wither Storm at EnderCon

was repeating all over again. The only thing she noticed was Jesse. His wavy chestnut hair, his emerald-green eyes, adorable smile...his face alone was enough to make her heart skip. Before she knew it, their heads were getting closer, and closer, and closer. She saw Jesse close his eyes before she did too. Then—

"What about Gabriel? Did he get away too?" Axel interrupted, snapping them out of their little moment. "It's all a blur, but...the Wither Storm left almost nothing behind," Petra sadly admitted. "Everyone...everything...was just gone." After a moment's hesitation, she finally added: "It even got Gabriel." The expression Magnus cast was painful to see, so Petra turned away.

## Olivia's POV

"So, you said Soren could find out what that dragon was?" Olivia asked Ellegaard.

"Yes. Other than Ivor, he was a book-a-holic. He might know something," Ellegaard said. As she spoke, Olivia noticed that Jesse had come back. And he had brought Magnus with him. "Um, would someone care to explain what HE is doing here?" Ellegaard hissed, her expression changing dramatically. Olivia didn't exactly know why, but she had a feeling things were about to get complicated.

## Jesse's POV

Jesse couldn't understand. Why was Ellegaard here? And why was Magnus ticked about it? They were once good friends, and teammates...weren't they?

"Jesse! Jesse! Look! We found Ellegaard!" Olivia exclaimed happily.

"Just hang on a sec, okay?" Jesse told Magnus. "I'll go figure out what's going on."

"Good. You do that," Magnus replied darkly. As Jesse walked towards the feminine trio, Nikki noticed him approach. Her face lit up. "Jesse! You're back!" She went to him. She seemed to be limping, much to Jesse's surprise. "Nikki, what happened? Are you hurt?" he asked concernedly.

"Oh, yeah...the Wither Storm just clipped me with one of its tentacles. I'll just walk it off," Nikki assured him. Jesse didn't look too assured, but he trusted her. So he walked over to Ellegaard and Olivia.

"Easy now Olivia. Let's try to play it cool, hmm?" Jesse caught a few words from the engineer before she turned to him. "So, you are you now? —and why did you bring HIM with you?" she said, pointing to Magnus.



"We're reuniting the Order of the Stone," Jesse explained.

"It was kind of crazy," Nikki jumped in. "We went to Redstonia and there were all these incredible engineers and inventors."

"It was a little intimidating, actually..." Olivia confessed. "But Ellegaard's made me her protégé!"

"Well, assistant for now," Ellegaard gently reminded. "After what happened there--"

"I see no need to mention it now," Nikki defended Olivia. "What matters is that you're here."

"Well, I'm the king of Boom Town!" Jesse declared, confusing the girls.

"Very impressive," Ellegaard stated. "And your friend here—she may have, well, embarrassed herself a tiny bit."

"Yeah..." Olivia sighed. "But after we pled our case, she agreed to take me on as her prote-I mean, assistant, and come back to help."

"Not bad, right?" Nikki beamed.

"Not at all," her brother agreed.

"Oh, hooray!" said Magnus's familiar drawling voice. "It's Ellie. And here I was starting to enjoy myself."

"Hello, Magnus," Ellegaard replied bitterly. "Your voice is exactly as pleasant as I remember. Which is to say, not at all."

"Ow. My feelings. Is that the same wit you're going to use to save the world?"

"Why? You here to tell me how to do it better?"

"Oh, I would NEVER dream of doing that. Unlike you, I actually do things instead of talking about them,"

"Hey! That's Ellegaard you're talking to," Olivia warned. "Show some respect." Magnus had hardly noticed Olivia at first, but this angry comment got his attention. "Wow. You finally found yourself a live one," he sniffed. "Your little devotees are usually a little more on the bookish side."

"Would you all cut it out?!" Jesse ordered. "Holy crap, you're all acting like crazy people!"

As his command, Magnus and Ellegaard stopped and walked to the map on the other side of the room. "Uh, guys? Can we please focus on the bigger picture?" Jesse reminded them. "We have a very hungry Wither Storm in the process of turning the whole world into its dinner."

"Yeah, I'll admit..." Magnus had to say. "That thing looked nasty. And I've seen some nasty stuff in my time."

"Too much for you, was it?" Ellegaard taunted. "Your usual brutish approach didn't cut it?"

"Hey! You weren't there, all right? You didn't see how this thing just tore everything up!"

"You think I just came here for fun, Magnus?! I know what that thing can do, but I've seen that it can be stopped,"

"Are you out of your mind?! Nothing can take it down!"

Jesse was just about done with these two. But before he could say a word, Nikki stepped up, with a glare fiery and pure.

"Will you two stop FIGHTING?!" she barked, something around her neck suddenly flaring up.

"Whoa!" Magnus drew back in alarm.

"Yikes," Ellegaard whispered, a little shaken too.

"Nikki, what IS that?" Axel asked, thrusting a finger at the glow. Nikki took out a command block-shaped charm from where she had been hiding it in her shirt. "It's a command block amulet. THE command block amulet, according to Ellegaard. We somehow managed to re-summon it in her lab," Nikki told everyone.

"That's impossible!" Magnus protested. "That trinket was lost a long time ago! Before the Order of the Stone even existed!"

"But it's back now! And that's not all," Olivia said. "The Wither Storm passed through Redstonia, and Nikki scared it off by turning into a golden Ender Dragon!"

"That's even more impossible!"
Magnus huffed. "Even the
amulet has its chances of
returning to us, but a little girl?!
Scaring off a Notch-forsaken
beast with tentacles and tractor
beams?! What do you take me
for?!"



"That's what I was trying to tell you," Ellegaard put in. "Nikki

has somehow unlocked the powers of the command block amulet. Maybe she can stop it! She just has to use the dragon!" Jesse was astounded. Could his sister really solve all their problems?

## Nikki's POV

"Prove it, then," Magnus snorted, narrowing his eyes at Nikki. She felt unsure about this member of the Order, but at least she could show the dragon. The question was: how?

"Alright. You want to see it?" she asked him. "Fine." Nikki shuffled to the balcony of the Order's temple, and tried to ignore the fact that everyone was watching her. Nikki faced ahead, trying to put her mind in the same state it had been when she rescued Disco Mickey and Richard. "THIS is the dragon," she said, clenching her fists, thinking it might help. She gathered her strength and—

"\*SQEAK!\*" Nikki immediately slapped her hands over her mouth, then removed them cautiously, realizing that they were still hands. "What in the name of Notch?"

"That was...uh...interesting," Axel said, but Magnus thought differently.

"HA!" laughed Magnus. "You call that a dragon? That wasn't even a roar!"

"That wasn't the dragon!" insisted Olivia. "It was way more...golden, and fierce! Come on, Nikki, try again!" But Nikki wasn't even confident enough to do so.

"Magnus, I swear," Ellegaard tried to convince Magnus. "I get it, it's really hard to believe, but--"

"You bet your bricks it's hard to believe! A <u>kid</u>! Unlocking the power of the old builders which was lost long ago! It's not even believable!"

"But I really DID do it!" Nikki snapped, getting in Magnus' face. "Listen, bud, you don't know me. I'm not sure how, or why, but I know for a fact that there was a dragon that scared off a monster!"

"Okay, the people-saving I can believe, but scaring off the Wither Storm?" Axel cut in. "As far I know, that thing can't be scared by anything, much less a little kid."

"What?! You don't believe me either?!" Nikki sputtered.

"Axel, for the love of Notch, you have to listen!" Olivia asserted.

"Sorry, guys, but we have something worse than a dragon on our backs, so we might as well focus on it."

Nikki let out a hefty sigh. "Okay, fine. You guys just get on with this. I'm gonna go get some fresh air." So Nikki left to do so, feeling so low and lost.

"Why doesn't anyone believe me?" she asked herself. "I know what I saw!" She hesitated, and thought a little more into the problem. "Then again...I'm not even hero-esque. And no one would be the first to disagree." Nikki shuffled along, knowing that this wasn't doable. Heroes were supposed to be tough and strong and able to scare off evil. She couldn't do any of that.

# Oop! Here comes a sing-a-long! Get ready to join in!

"The Pony I Want to Be" - Song [MLP FiM] https://youtu.be/UVgMmT7pX1Y

I'm not a hero, be-cause I don't feel as rough
They're all stronger than me, and they think that's enough
There's a deep groove here inside
I don't have what it takes
Be-cause heroes must be tough
Yet I feel I could break

Who would believe
That I could ever be
Someone new, somebody else
But I can't see
What I need to do
To be the hero I wanna be!

Nikki trudged along, feeling lower than she was before. It seemed like just because of her size, she was automatically ruled off as weak. She wished at least ONE person would see her different.



I've been told by others
Who I am, what I say
It's all hurt me so much
I wish it would go away
So now I feel like I'm lost
I don't know what to do
The ground is disappearing
I'm about to fall through

Who would believe
That I could ever be
Someone new, somebody else
But I can't see
What I need to do
To be the hero I wanna be!
To be the hero I wanna be!

Nikki sat on the temple roof, alone. She heaved a defeated sigh. It didn't matter, she supposed. Even if the dragon had been real, it didn't seem to be showing up now, so why use something that no one was sure even existed against a Wither Storm?

Suddenly, she heard a stone crumble. Reflex taking over thought, Nikki drew her iron sword and whirled around. There, in front of her, she saw a black-haired girl with a red shirt and blue overalls. She looked petrified, but then again, anyone who had a sword pointed at them would be. Nikki was about to strike when she saw Zephyr flying next to her, shaking his head vigorously.

"Who...are you?" Nikki asked cautiously, lowering her sword ever so slightly. "My name's Jenny," the girl explained. "Your bat brought me here. And I have some important news for you."



## Axel's POV

Axel kind of felt bad for denying the existence of Nikki's strange new ability, but what more was there to do? If he had said the truth, Magnus might think less of him. And he had viewed Jesse as better than him already. He couldn't risk making it any worse.

"Alright. We need to find out how to stop that thing," Petra declared.

"Um, I don't know if you've looked around yet, but this place isn't nearly the stronghold it used to be," Ellegaard reminded her. "Most of our supplies are gone."

"Yeah. It would take a mountain of TNT to kill that thing!" Magnus stated. "I hate to say it, but you have a point," Ellegaard disdainfully agreed.

"This is amazing," Axel thought bewilderedly. "Are they...getting along?"

"So what are we gonna do?" Jesse worriedly piped up. "How are we going to stop it?"

"Well, let's not panic, first of all," Ellegaard coaxed. "That's a good first step. But against such an unthinkable enemy, even all the TNT in the world might not be enough." She sighed sadly. "I wish Soren was here...he might have something we could use."

That's when everyone heard a gasp, a thump, a rustle, tiny footsteps from the roof, and then Nikki jumped off from the ceiling.

"Gah! Don't DO that!" Jesse scolded. "Have you forgotten that you were wounded by the Wither Storm?!"

"Yell at me later, bro! I just figured something out!" Nikki announced. "There's this thing he built, and it's super strong!" "What are you talking about?" Axel was confused. "What did Soren have?"

"According to Jenny, he had this 'Super TNT,' which could form something called the 'Formidi-Bomb."

"Yeah, yeah, I've heard all about the F-Bomb before," Magnus said in an annoyed tone. "F-Bomb?" Axel's unibrow twisted in perplexion.

"Yeah. Soren claimed that dropping the F-Bomb could destroy anything." Axel hid a snicker at the comment.

"Do you know where it is?" Jesse asked his sister. "Can we get some?"

Nikki looked thoughtful for a moment, then she walked over to the world map. "We found Magnus and Ellegaard. Chances are we can find Soren too," she said. "And where we find Soren, we find the Formidi-Bomb. I mean, unless he's in the Nether, or the End."

"Worth a shot," Ellegaard guessed.

## Lukas' POV

"Whoa, whoa, slow down. Who's Jenny?" Lukas demanded to know. Nikki turned to him, eyes sparkling with mischief.

"She is," Nikki gestured to the roof, where the most beautiful girl Lukas had ever seen leapt down. She had long black hair with a yellow clip securing it in place, and she wore a red shirt with blue overalls. Her eyes were green like Jesse's, but were cacti green more than emerald green.

"She had a long story to tell," Nikki explained. "She survived the Wither Storm, and ducked into the Nether in a different portal. Eventually, Jenny found our old shelter and has been living there until Zephyr managed to tell her that there were people in the temple. She went to the roof to investigate, and that's where we met."



"But what about the information about the Formidi-Bomb?" Olivia wanted to know. Lukas would have asked the same question, but he was too dumbfounded by Jenny to do so. "She's a Soren FANATIC, like Lukas, so the Formidi-Bomb was a mere fun fact," Nikki said proudly.

"Well, I wouldn't say, 'fanatic,'" Jenny quietly protested.

"That's fine," Lukas stammered. "What matters is that you're here. Oh, and uh, that you had that information too," he added before anyone could notice his mistake.

Suddenly, they all saw two beams of light flash over their heads and onto the map. Jesse had set the amulet in place and it had worked the same magic it had when they first tried it out.

"Alright, there's your light...my light," Magnus observed the green and red light shining next to each other. Then, a third, white light flickered on the edge of the map.

"That's new..." Axel said.

"There he is!" Jenny chimed.
"But what is he doing up there?"

"Soren had his fortress deep inside the mountains," Ellegaard answered. "After the Order...broke up, that's where he went to keep doing his experiments."



"He invited me there a couple times," Magnus revealed. "But he always seemed a little..."

"Weird, right?" Ellegaard guessed. "It always seemed a little weird."

"Well, what are we waiting for?" Nikki said. "Let's grab some gear and go get us some Super TNT!"

## Nikki's POV

Nikki was suddenly so pumped. She realized now that there was a way to stop the Wither Storm! They had a plan!

"This could actually work!" she said aloud. "We could actually pull this off!"

"The Pony I Want to Be (Reprise)" - Song [MLP FiM] https://youtu.be/KD4mVIvU3-8

We'll find that bomb and explode that thing into bits We can find Soren as well, if you think, this all fits I wanna help and do ev-ery-thing that I can Not here to change, I am ready to show who I am

"Olivia, go get some of the stuff we mined from the cave!" Nikki instructed. "And Jenny, Lukas, there's a few mobs outside that we might need some loot from. Go get 'em!" The three took off to start their tasks.

"What can we do, sis?" Jesse asked brightly. "Take your bow and go hunting. We won't last long without food," Nikki told her brother. "You've got it! That's the spirit!"

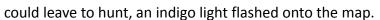
There's so much I can do to help everybody else
I see the light that shines in me
I know it's okay to be myself!
So forget the past
Cause' now the future's bright for me!
My soul inside has set me free
I'll do what's right
And become the hero I wanna be!
Become the hero I wanna be!

Nikki felt a warmth glow around her chest. The command block amulet was shimmering like a

polished gold ingot. She was filled with pure certainty.

# Jesse's POV

Jesse felt so proud. His little sister was truly growing up from a reckless, bouncy young girl to a strong, individual leader who stood string in the face of danger. But before he



"Whoa..." Ellegaard gasped.

"That didn't happen before," Nikki's eyebrow scrunched in confusion.

"Wait, who IS that?" Jesse wondered aloud. Just then, he remembered that there weren't just four members of the Order. He suddenly had a foreboding feeling about that beam of light.

"That's Ivor!"

"Ivor is going to Soren's! We need to move!" Ellegaard said.

"It's not too far," Nikki observed." We could probably make it on foot."

"Perfect—we can wait until tomorrow morning and travel with a full day's sunlight,"

"Whoa, whoa! And risk that thing catching up with us?!" Magnus cut in. "I think I've had enough Wither Storm for one day, thank you very much."

"Right, because getting caught out there in the dark is SO much better," Ellegaard retorted.

"Have you forgotten what you saw at Redstonia?!"

"No, and I also haven't forgotten who saved us from that Storm,"

"Someone pinch me. You're STILL hanging on to the fact that a KID could stop it?!"

Jesse had been listening to this conversation, and was now fed up with Magnus for rebuking his sister. "And YOU can't accept the fact that Nikki may have saved us by snapping you out of your battle-hungry trance?!"

Magnus whirled on Jesse to throw back a retort, but he remembered what happened back in Boom Town, and remained silent.

"It's decided then—we leave at dawn," Ellegaard said.

## Nikki's POV

A few hours later, it was dark and everyone was at their beds.

"Okay, everyone, rest up," Jesse instructed. "We'll head out at first light, alright?" No one answered, but Nikki figured that everyone got the idea. Turning her attention to the corner where Jesse and Petra sat, she caught a few words of their conversation.

"I appreciate you giving us a chance to rest, Jesse," Petra was saying. "I hate to admit it, but I needed this."

Nikki heard no more as Magnus walked up to her. "Nikki, right?" he asked her. "Oh. Hi," Nikki said slowly, keeping his current opinion of her in mind.



them. Before long, it all starts to annoy you,"

"Sorry if I looked down on you a little," he apologized. "Ellie can make me go nuts sometimes."

"I gotta ask—what's up with you guys? Why do you fight so much?"

"Ellie and I have been in some tough situations together and...didn't really have the same idea on how to get out of Magnus got a curious look on his face. "So kid...how is it being a leader in this little ragtag bunch? I mean, there's no need to be modest, since I saw you handle things in the map room pretty well." Nikki blushed a bit. "It's actually been pretty hard. When people get fighting, when tough decisions have to be made...and to top it all off, everyone underestimates you because you're a kid, and don't listen to you for that."

"Yeah. That's why I let Soren take the wheel. And why I left for Boom Town," Magnus paused. "And speaking of Boom Town...I'm sorry for not believing you about that...dragon thing," he admitted, surprising Nikki. "I just couldn't believe that the command block amulet came back from the depths of Notch knows where, just like that. And I NEVER thought anyone would be able to handle its powers."

"Well...it's okay. I'm glad you have faith in me now,"

"Glad to be a part of this team," Magnus grinned, ruffling Nikki's small head. "Now how about we get some shut-eye? We got a long walk ahead of us tomorrow."

## Petra's POV

It was about midnight, and Petra couldn't sleep. The pain burning in her arm kept her awake. She thought about how lucky all the others were, fast asleep, a little tired, maybe, but that only made it easier to close their eyes. And it wasn't only the pain in her arm that kept her up. It was concern and worry. She couldn't bear to think of what would happen if anyone found out about her experience. With all attention on her, the Wither Storm could take advantage, and she, her friends, all of Minecraftia, would be lost. The thought alone caused her more agony than her arm.

Lost in her thoughts, Petra had hardly even noticed how close her head and Jesse's were to each other's. She turned and saw his slumbering face right there, and immediately flushed red. Now Petra saw how lucky SHE was now that everyone was asleep. And yet...despite her embarrassment, looking at his face, she felt...better. Relaxed, even. But Petra couldn't understand. Why would she fall for Jesse? He was a great friend, sure, but surely that had to be all, wasn't it?



Then, right out of the blue, Petra got an idea. Her eyes flashed all around to double, triple, and quadruple check that no one was awake, or even half-asleep. Then, she quickly gave Jesse's cheek a small peck, then looked away, blushing harder than she ever had in her life. Suddenly, a cold wind blew into the temple. Without thinking, Petra shivered and snuggled closer to Jesse's warm body. Oddly enough, it wasn't so disconcerting this time. That's when she knew, at last, what to do.

"I can trust him," she told herself. "Jesse will understand. I can tell him about it." Finally, comforted, and warm as well, Petra was able to fall asleep.

# Jesse's POV

Jesse awoke to the brush of a cold breeze that made its way into the temple. He blinked the sleep away from his eyes, and became aware of what was going on. He looked all around, and then noticed that Petra was not only next to him, but had cuddled up close. It must have been the freezing air outside. Lava would have felt like ice compared to how much Jesse heated up seeing his childhood crush huddled up to him like this. Still...deep inside, he really liked it.

She was so beautiful, he thought, so precious to him. And there might be something fatally wrong with her. Jesse winced at the thought of losing Petra. Surely there was something he could do? Abruptly, Jesse had an idea. Doing it in front of anyone would be beyond humiliating, but now, no one was watching, so...why not? Jesse leaned down, careful not to disturb her, and gently kissed the top of her head. He then looped an arm around her shoulders.

"Whatever's happened to you," Jesse promised. "Whatever you've been through...!'ll fix it the best I can, and make you feel better." With one last peek at his sleeping love interest, Jesse let a black wave of tiredness seep over him once more.

D'awwwww! It's been such a long time since I wrote Jetra cuteness! <: 3 That goes for Lukesse too! (Did I do okay for the first time?) You guys remember when I did Song Parody Saturdays? Yeah, Nikki nailed it, huh? (Oh, and I decided to do those every other Saturday, so...might be a bit of a while before the next one). Also, there's more chapters on the way, so stay tuned!

# **Chapter 9: The Dragon Strikes Again**

Guess who's about to WRECK IT UP?! That's right! THE DRAGON IS! (I wonder if it's become a likeable icon yet?)

...

Wh--Shut up! She can do it! Just you watch!

•••

Oh, please, Axel. You're just backing for Magnus!

•••

OOOOH, YOU BETTER TAKE THAT BACK, FATTY! \*charges at Axel\*

Nikki: \*facepalm\* Just start the chapter, Shipper.

# Axel's POV

The next morning, everyone awoke, one by one. Axel stretched to shake off the last of the sleep from his body and glanced around, smacking his lips. His eyes caught Jesse and Petra, still asleep and curled up together. He barely stopped himself from bursting out with laughter. Instead, he told Nikki what he saw, crept up quietly alongside her, and cleared his throat as they started to stir.

"Well, THIS is certainly adorable," he said quite loudly.

"Mmrf...what are you talking about, big guy?" muttered Petra, unaware of Jesse next to her.

"Yeah, Axel. What gives?" Jesse grunted sleepily. Just then, the pair turned their heads—and



ended up staring at each other, taking them by slight surprise. When realization hit, they leapt onto their feet as if they had been stung, where Axel finally snapped and doubled over in laughter, Nikki joining him.

"That's not funny!" Jesse hissed, his face even more red with embarrassment than anger. "Knock it off!"

"Ha-ha-ha! No way! That's gold! Ah-ha-ha!" Nikki could barely lift her head to talk to her brother properly. Even Zephyr could hardly hang on to her shoulder as he emitted quick, sharp squeaks which sounded vaguely like laughter.

"Oh, man! Oh, MAN! My stomach hurts so bad!" Axel guffawed.

"I'm gonna make it hurt even more in a second!" a discomfited Petra growled. "I'm gonna get you two so bad!"

# Jenny's POV

Soon enough, everyone was on their feet and moving. As they walked for the mountain, Jenny thought over her little adventure before meeting this little crew. Just that morning, she was at the building competition, not to compete, but to spectate. That's when she first saw Lukas. The blonde, leather-jacket wearing Ocelot leader was a knockout to her, but she was too shy to even go up and say hello. Later on, at EnderCon, Jenny had gotten a ticket to Gabriel's keynote and wanted to head home afterwards, but after the drama with Ivor and the spawning of the Wither Storm, she nor anyone else was going home tonight. She was one of the lucky few who evaded the Storm's terrifying tentacles and ant-gravity beams that sucked innocent citizens up like a hopper.

Ducking into her Nether portal at home, Jenny found herself isolated in the barren, hellish place until she found the Order's minecart system. Following the tracks led her to the same Nether

portal our heroes had taken. Once through, Jenny discovered the treehouse shelter and lived off the land until Zephyr notified her about the residents at the next-door temple. And, as luck would have it, Lukas was in this little gang. Perhaps they'd get to know each other better now that they were on the same team.



"Nikki's leg looks a lot better," she thought to herself. When she first met the little girl, she was limping due to an attack by the Wither Storm. A good night's rest had cleaned up the pain, and now she strode cheerfully along.

"Ahhhhhhh," Magnus sighed contentedly. "Nothing like a good night's sleep to do the body right. I am ready to do some BLASTIN' today."

"Heh. I wish I felt as good as you sound," Petra said. "I'm still feeling a little under the weather." Jenny had to admit, she DID look a bit dreary. But Petra's lack of energy wasn't the only thing she'd worry about in a couple of seconds.

# Lukas' POV

Lukas walked along peacefully, trying not to stagger as he neared Jenny. Even being at a close proximity with her made his heart skip. He tried to say something, but before he could even try, a low growl was heard. He turned around, and his pupils dilated when he saw where it came from.

"Uh, guys?" he warned the others. They all whipped around to see the Wither Storm right on top of them!

"Ah, CRAP!" Magnus cursed. "I told you it was going to catch up with us!" "Oh my," gasped Ellegaard. "I didn't think it'd find us so fast."

"No..." Petra seemed to falter. "Not again." Lukas suddenly heard a hiss. He tore his eyes away from the Wither Storm and saw that numerous mobs, spawned by the blockage of the sun, were coming out and advancing on the group.

"We can hash that out later!" Jenny declared, pulling out a stone sword. "Because we've got some monsters to fight here, people!" At her command, the others pulled out their weapons.

"We'll have to get to know each other later," Lukas guessed, pulling out his bow. "We'd better get to safety first!"

## Jesse's POV

Jesse unsheathed his stone sword. He faced on three zombies. One by one, he sliced them out. Just as he was grinning over his victory, he heard a hiss behind him. He whirled around to see a spider sneaking up on him!

"Gangway, bro!" Jesse heard Nikki cry. She made a clean leap over him and slaughtered the spider before it could hit him.

"Thanks, Nikki, but we need to get out of here!" Jesse told her. He and the others tried to run, but too many mobs blocked their way.

"I am getting VERY tired of this Wither Storm!" Olivia complained.

"Agreed!" yelped Ellegaard.

"Not again," Petra was muttering. "Not again."

"We're trapped!" Lukas realized. "There's no way out!"

"Great! Mobs in front, and Wither Storm in back! We're going to end up sandwich meat!" cried Magnus. "I hate sandwich meat!"

Jesse knew this wasn't good. Would their journey really end here?

## Nikki's POV

Nikki's head thrashed around wildly. It was chaos now. She and her friends were stuck, and now, they were going to die! Couldn't anyone save them?

Just then, Nikki felt different. The same way she felt back in Redstonia; the same bubbly ferocity. Suddenly, an involuntary instinct took over.

"Everyone, get behind me! NOW!" she ordered. The gang was confused, but with the way things were, they had very little choice. They gathered around the small girl, wondering what she was thinking. As a matter of fact, Nikki was hardly thinking at all. A strange sort of new nature had taken her over, and it seemed to know exactly what to do.

As Nikki stepped forth to confront the huge black monster, the command block amulet started to glow its familiar golden color. A breeze started to blow south of our heroes, as if a power was gathering itself up in one place.

"Listen, Wither Storm!" Nikki barked. "If you try to take on even one member of this group, you take on me!" With that, Nikki drew in her head, and lashed it back out, letting loose a mighty roar. As she did, she transformed into the golden Ender Dragon again!

The force of the roar sent the Wither Storm back, as it did before. And a golden shockwave similar to the one in Boom Town emanated from the roar, slicing into the hostile mobs in front of them and taking them out. Her friends seemed totally fine though. Oh sure, the wind made their eyes water and their ears burned from the loud blast of the Ender Dragon's rumble, but they were unharmed otherwise.

Everyone also was gaping at Nikki. That is, except for Ellegaard, who had an "I-told-you-so," look on her face, and Olivia, who was flipping out. "Alright!" she cheered. "Now THAT'S the dragon!" With the Wither Storm fleeing and the mobs dead, the entire way was clear. And it was all thanks to Nikki.

### Axel's POV

Axel's mouth flopped open. He couldn't believe what he had just witnessed. Nikki had been telling the truth all along. Everyone else looked just as flabbergasted.

"Wha—But—It—YOU--!" Jesse could hardly put the words together himself.

"Wow. Didn't see that coming," Petra said in a strained-but-calm voice.

"I told you guys!" Olivia declared. "I told you!"

"Well..." Nikki said hesitantly. "We should keep moving. That Storm will be back any moment." Mumbling agreement, the team moved on, still staring at her.

"She turned into a dragon," Axel rewound what he just experienced in his mind. "A freakin' legit Ender-type dragon!" As crazy as it sounded, it was what had indeed happened. Hopefully, it would happen again when they needed it most.

HAH! I TOLD you Nikki had it in her! I TOLD you! HA! Feeling pretty dumb right about now, huh Axel?

•••

Wha? I am NOT rubbing it in! And why are you getting confrontational? YOU'RE the one who was wrong!

•••

Alright, alright, fine! I'll close it!

### **Chapter 10: Feeling Shifty**

Moar Lukesse, coming in hot! I hope there are Lukesse fans in the crowd, somewhere. If so, LEMME HEAR YA SHOUT!

#### Jesse's POV

Once they reached the inside of the temple, Jesse was able to relax a bit. The door in the mountain had concealed a large tunnel leading to a quartz staircase.

"Wow. Soren lived here?" Lukas mused. "So far away from...anyone?"

"Enchanting, isn't it?" Ellegaard sighed.

As they spoke, Petra started to cough. Jesse turned around to glance back in concern. Now that he could stop and breathe again, Petra looked a little unhealthy to him. But she only gave him an uncomfortable glance and walked on, trying to act as if nothing had happened.

When the gang went up the staircase, they saw long pillars that stood out with flat tops, descending into quite a fall. If they fell, they would survive, but it would be hard getting back out again...that is, if they could.

"Yeah, really not feeling those columns," Olivia gulped. But Magnus took a flying leap onto one of them, and he was totally unharmed.

"C'mon, it's fine!" he shouted back at them. "Look!"

Axel, eager to follow his idol, hopped onto the same column. After his jump, it seemed to be a signal for everyone to cross the columns. One by one, they leapt off the ledge and onto the pillars. Reuben was trembling in his hooves, staring up nervously at Jesse.

"Just...don't fall, okay?" That was the best advice Jesse could give at the moment. He jumped onto the first column and peeked down. "Oh, that is deep, that is very deep," he gulped.

### Jenny's POV

Jenny tried not to feel nervous as she jumped skittishly across the columns. And to think, she got sucked up into this crazy quest for Soren! Not to mention, she got chased by a living storm, rescued by a golden dragon, and now was working side-by-side with two heroes who hated each other. Whoever said there was a first time for anything really meant it!

As she was almost to the opposite ledge, she leapt onto the last column and pushed off. She expected to be propelled to the ledge, but instead, there was gravel where solid stone should be. It gave way under her feet. Frantically, Jenny tried to grab at something, but all she caught was air. She plummeted to the ground below, and landed rather uncomfortably.

"Oh, man! What happened?!" Nikki called down.

"What does it look like?!" Jenny retorted hotly. "I fell!"

"I meant, how did you fall?"

"I...may have slipped,"



Jesse trotted up next to Nikki, looking a bit concerned. "What should we do?" Nikki asked her brother.

"Jenny, just stay put! We'll find a way down later!" Jesse promised. Then, he turned and went out of sight. Nikki had no choice but to follow.

"Wait! 'Later?!' Jesse? Nikki! HEY!" Jenny screamed for them, but neither came back. "Some teammates," she sniffed angrily. Before she could pout more, she heard a vwoop. Heart sinking, she ducked behind a clay patch, the sound all too familiar.

"Aw, great. I've got endermen," she cursed.

"AHHHH!" a cry of surprise responded. Before Jenny could react, who other than Lukas should land in front of her, on his back.

"Lukas?! What are you doing?" she was surprised she had succeeded in getting the words out after being so befuddled.

"I heard your voice and thought I'd come down to help," he replied, grinning. For some odd reason, Jenny couldn't help but blush. He was much more...charming than she bargained for. Lukas happened to catch the endermen too, and he gulped nervously.

"There are so many. I didn't even think they came in groups that big," she admitted.

"And...thanks for coming back, Lukas. I mean that." If Jenny didn't know better, she could've sworn Lukas looked more red than tan.



As they were talking, Jenny heard a deeper and even closer vwoop behind her. Instinctively, she turned around. Big mistake. There was an enderman there, and she had just looked it in the eye! Now it was REALLY pissed off. He made such a racket, the other endermen noticed and started coming after her. Jenny stepped back in fear—and slipped off an edge she didn't even know was there. She ended up plunging into a raging canal. Right behind her, Lukas jumped in to avoid the endermen, who hissed in fury, but wouldn't dare teleport into the water to reach them.

Jenny suddenly heard a rushing noise. One turn of her head revealed that it was a waterfall that made the waters run fast! It was too late to do anything. Lukas and Jenny plunged down the falls, gripping each other in panic.

When it was all over, they broke apart, floating in the water, quite embarrassed. No one was sure what to say to the other, but for all they knew, at least they had gotten out...

So this one's a bit short, but what does it matter? We got more coming in hot! Well, one more, in all honesty, but who even cares?

## **Chapter 11: Love is Trust**

This one's going to be a shippy chapter, so I'd advise skipping it if you're not into that sort of thing. Other than that, this one's for you, Jetra shippers!

### Lukas' POV

Lukas wasn't sure if he'd ever be able to do anything normally ever again. He had just HUGGED the person who had recently become the girl of his dreams. And impressed her, on top of that! At least, he thought so. Did he? He was soon distracted by Magnus and Ellegaard's shouts.

Clearly, they were arguing again, most likely about which direction to go. With water clogging his ears, he only heard muffled but loud shouts. When he arrived at the shore and cleared the water out, Ellegaard's voice bellowed angrily.

"That's it! I'm going!" she snapped. "Once again, it falls to me to take care of everything. I'll find this Super TNT myself!"

"Oh no!" Magnus roared after her. "You do NOT get to be the one who walks away!" And, rather pointlessly, he stormed out in the opposite direction. "See? I'm walking away too now! Super TNT, here I come!"

"Y'know, it's hard to pick 'glass half-full' when they keep kicking the glass over," Olivia commented. "Heck, the glass is probably shattered at this point."

"They've definitely got issues to work through," agreed Jesse. "Hopefully, they'll work things out in time and get on with the important stuff." Lukas didn't voice confirmation, but Jesse had a point. The sooner the two Order members put aside their differences, the faster they could save the world...if they had a chance at doing so.

#### Nikki's POV

Nikki sat absentmindedly in the corner, staring up at the statues of the Order of the Stone that filled the room. Her eyes sought out Soren's statue in particular. Could he really hold the answers to the command block amulet? What was more, would she ever learn to control it? Should she keep it at all?

Frowning, she swung her legs in a bored manner, glancing around at the scenery. She peeked an eye at Petra, who sat on a quartz bench, holding her arm. Something was up with her for sure. The only thing that was eluding her was what that something was. She would tell them the truth in time...right?

Nikki then started thinking about how they ended up in such a situation anyways, the root of the problem. Why would Ivor do something so evil? If he had played the deal fairly, would they have been doomed to be destroyed? Was it a GOOD thing that Ivor had cheated? Was the adventure a lucky coincidence or fate?

"Ugh! So many questions, and not enough answers!" Nikki thought furiously, so confused about so much.

"Hey, sis? How are you holding up here?" Jesse walked up to her unexpectedly, revealing that Nikki had been plastering her emotions on her face.



"Too many things on my mind," she confessed. "I try to avoid these thoughts, but I can't stop thinking about everything that's happened to us. The Wither Storm, the command block amulet, meeting the Order, saving the world—how could it all happen to one small ragtag group? Why us? Why me?"

Jesse seemed to process the question for quite a while before finally answering with— "I don't know. But Notch willing, we'll make it through this. By the way, I wanted to ask you about something."

"Oh?"

"It's Petra. She doesn't look so good,"

"So you've noticed too. I think something's not right with her. We might need to talk," "Good plan. You go,"

"Uh-uh, brickface. YOU'RE going. Makes more sense that way,"

"...This is one of your ploys, isn't it?"

"One of my pl—no! Ok, forget it! We should probably go get Ellegaard first. I know her better, and Magnus seemed more ticked, anyway,""

"I hardly think that matters, and it would be easier for each of us to go get the other, but if it evades me from one of your silly plans, I guess we can go together,"

"Whatever. And they are NOT silly!"

### Petra's POV

Petra sat on a quartz bench, the purple lump on her arm agitating her more than usual. She was still arguing with herself whether it was time to tell Jesse about her condition or not. It seemed like their darkest hour, now that Magnus and Ellegaard had left, and he and Nikki were about to leave too, anyways. Maybe it was time to tell them.

Petra walked over to Jesse and tapped his shoulder before he could leave. He turned around, a look of worry crossing his face.

"Petra? Are you okay?" he asked. She didn't answer him.

"I'm sorry. I don't mean to worry you," she told him. The others gathered around the two, looking curious. But Petra wasn't quite ready to share the news with everyone just yet. "I've just got something I wanna discuss with you in private."

Jesse nodded to show he understood, and told the others to split up. Lukas, Jenny, Axel, and Olivia went one way while Jesse, Petra, Nikki, Reuben, and Zephyr went the other. As they left the open statue space, Petra hoped she could trust Jesse as much as she assumed she could.

### Jesse's POV

Jesse followed Petra into the dark hallway, curious about what she wanted to share. Nikki had tagged along too, but she was his sister. He could trust her to keep quiet about what Petra wanted to say. "I feel bad about ditching everyone else, but I just wanted to talk to you about this alone," Petra said. "It's...a little tough to talk about."

Jesse's heart started beating faster. Did Petra want to talk about what he thought she wanted to talk about? Or was he getting too hopeful about something so impossible?



"Hey, whatever it is, I trust you. You can tell me," he assured her.

"Thanks for being so understanding,"
Petra replied, giving him a warm smile.
Jesse loved seeing that smile, especially in such a gruesome-looking situation.

The group turned a corner at the end of the hallway, where they were sure not to

be heard, and Petra turned and stopped.

"You got me away from the Wither Storm..." she said, looking a little gray. "But I'm worried that I didn't get away soon enough,"

"What--?"

Petra rolled up her sleeve to show a purplish mark on her arm, the skin around it gray and pasty. Jesse was startled and suddenly fearful for Petra. THAT'S why she'd been coughing in the hallway.

"What is that? What's wrong with your arm?" he asked, fighting not to panic. "Do you know what 'wither' is?" she asked.

"The Wither? Of course, we've been—"

"No, Jesse. Just 'wither.' Or, 'wither sickness,' I guess. And... I feel like it's just going to keep getting worse,"

"Well, we're gonna go back and get the others, we can get help!"

"You can't tell anyone about this. The mission's on the Storm, not me,"

"Uh...guys?"

"You're just as important! We can't just leave you in this condition! Who knows what it could do?!"

"Guys, there's a--"

"I already told you, I'm not the priority. Saving the world is. You can worry about me when we've got this all fixed,"

"But I--"

"GUYS! CREEPER!"

Nikki's panicked shout brought Jesse back to the real world, in which a creeper was approaching them. Petra leapt out of the way, but Jesse and Nikki reacted too slowly, and the creeper blew up in their faces, creating a crater from which its edge they dangled.

"Grab my hand! I'll pull you up!" Petra cried, sticking her withered hand out to Jesse. He grabbed it and tried to hoist himself up, but he felt her muscles weaken, and she dropped him into the pit. Both he and Nikki tumbled down into the hollow space below. As he landed, the amulet fell out of his pocket and clattered elsewhere.

"Jesse! I just couldn't--" Petra stopped herself to fix the quaver in her tone. "I'm sorry!"

"Hey, you're the one who's sick," Jesse comforted her. "Take care of yourself first; I'll be okay."

Petra stood up on her feet, muttering something to herself. "Stay safe! I'll find a way down to you guys!" Then, she turned and was out of sight. Reuben followed her, but Zephyr flew down to join the siblings. Jesse hoped they could find a way out, or at least find Ellegaard.

All you Jetra fans must be screaming "KIIIIIIIIIISS!" if I'm not mistaken. Huh? What's that? Just one more chapter and Book 2 is in the bag? Well, I better get started!

### **Chapter 12: The Epic Showdown**

The final chapter! I can't believe I actually found the time to finish this! But hey! It's been a busy month. But in a really good way! Thanks to all my wonderful followers! Maybe I'll just bring them up once--

**Nikki: NOPE! POSTING STORY NOW!** 

### Nikki's POV

Nikki did NOT like it down here. It was dark, cold, and most importantly, small. Nikki was claustrophobic, and she got uncomfortable around tight places. Oh, well, at least the walls weren't moving in on them or collapsing. That would've made her too panicked to think. But they may as well might have been.

"Funny how Soren needed such a small tunnel down here..." she absentmindedly spoke, unsuccessfully distracted from her fear.

"Chill, sis. We'll find a way out of here and be on our way soon," her brother assured her. "Look, the white bar is glowing! Soren must be down here!"

It was true; the little white bar was gleaming, lighting up the tunnel, and comforting Nikki a little. The pair walked on until they came to a huge room with a glowstone chandelier and shelf upon shelf of books.



"This is more like it," Nikki sighed in relief. "Not as low of a roof here."

Just then, she noticed that one of the walls of books were a crack open. Curious, she scampered over and peeked inside. She found a smaller room with someone in the corner. Could it be who she thought it was?

"Jesse! This way!" she whispered. Jesse clambered over and he too saw the mysterious figure, who was mumbling to themselves.

"Uh, hello?" Jesse asked, getting the figure's attention, but it wasn't Soren at all. It was Ivor!

### Jesse's POV

"You two again!" Ivor snarled.

"Yeah, us two!" Nikki agreed. "The two that are gonna put you and your Wither Storm out of commission!"

"You don't think I'M trying to stop it?" Ivor huffed. "This is MY moment! Stay out if it! Now, out of my way!"

"Sorry, Ivor, we--" Jesse started to say, but Ivor pushed past Jesse and started for the door, but who else should show up other than Petra?

"Oh, you're not going anywhere,"
Petra growled, drawing her golden sword.

"Hmmph. Petra! You escaped?" Ivor huffed, surprised in the slightest. However, Petra was advancing on him, and Jesse thought she had him for a moment. Then, she made the mistake of driving him to a sword



rack, where he picked up a gold sword of his own and began to duel with her.

"Foolish girl!" he cried. "I--"

"Shut up!" Petra shot back. "I don't care what you have to say. I'm just gonna take you down!"

Jesse drew his own sword and crept up behind Ivor slowly. Without him noticing, he managed to land a blow on him, one that hit him away from Petra. "I'm the only one who can stop the Wither Storm!" Ivor declared. "Not you! Not the Order!"

Nikki charged with her iron sword, but Ivor blocked it, and the two were locked in a battle of strength. "Don't make yourselves the villains in my story," Ivor warned, trying to overpower Jesse's sister. He was succeeding, but Nikki jumped out of danger before she was sliced in two. But Ivor kicked her over, and was about to strike when Jesse ran forward and hit Ivor in retaliation to protect his sister. As Ivor tried to recover from Jesse's blow, Petra came from behind and struck him to the floor.

"You're not going anywhere, creep," Petra vowed. Ivor regrouped and stood in defense around the three.

"This could have all been avoided," he told them as they came in closer. He then lowered his sword, and pulled out a bottle. "If you want to stop me, you'll have to catch me first!" he said, drinking the bottle's contents.

"Jesse, look out!" Nikki warned, trying to hit Ivor again, but his potion kicked in before she could land a blow, and he raced around the room at top speed. "You're not getting out of here that easy, Ivor!" Petra said, guarding the door. Jesse heard the potionologist cackle as he zipped around the room.

"I'm like the wind!" he boasted, running at Jesse with intentions to attack, but Jesse dodged his oncoming sword, only to find that Ivor wasn't going for him. He was going for Petra. She didn't get as lucky as Jesse did, and she took a harsh blow. It was even harsher with her withered arm.

"Out of my way!" Ivor hissed, swiping several blows, each which Petra was barely able to block. "I'll cut through you if I have to!" Knowing Jesse had to stop him before it actually happened, he raced forward and shoved Ivor aside, so fiercely that he fell to the ground on his face. "Don't tempt your fate," Ivor advised Jesse darkly once more before getting up and charging, the potion still in effect. Jesse swung his sword wildly, both defending himself and trying to land a blow.

He didn't know it, but Ivor was speeding towards him, ready to finish it, but Nikki charge-tackled him before Jesse could get hurt. The potion finally wore off, and Ivor got up off the ground at normal speed.

"It didn't have to go this way, Jesse. You could've just let me go," Ivor attempted to coax Jesse out of it, but he wasn't buying. Seeing that it hadn't worked, Ivor turned and ran to the other side of the room, drawing a splash potion.

"Now you see me, now you--" Ivor never finished his sentence before disappearing completely. Jesse backed up to where Petra was and guarded the door alongside her. "Vanish all you want, slimeball," Petra called out. "We're still not letting you go anywhere!"

As she said this, Ivor chucked splash potions of harming at the siblings, which they were able to dodge, luckily. Then, they stopped abruptly. "End of the rail, Ivor," Nikki said. "We're not letting you get away with this." There was no answer. Jesse peered around carefully, until he saw another splash potion fly through the air out of the blue. And it was heading straight for Petra!

"This one's on you, you puffed-up fool!" Ivor yelled. But there was no way Jesse was going to stand here and let his happen. He charged sideways and stood in front of her, willing to take the stinging blow...

But no! Nikki jumped in front of HIM, her sword dropped and her command block amulet glowing. The splash potion became shrouded in a golden energy. It stopped right in front of Nikki's nose, lingered for a few moments, and then shot right back at Ivor, hitting him instead!



"What?! How?!" Ivor gasped, standing up. He then saw the amulet around Nikki's neck. "Ah, the command block amulet. You HAVE been busy. Too bad you don't even know how to use it!"

"Jesse! Petra! Nikki!"

"\*Squeak!\*"

The three friends turned to see Zephyr and Reuben shooting back for them, the rest of the group behind.

"Even more of you?!" Ivor said in an annoyed tone. "Will this useless parade of babblers never cease?"



"What's going on?" Olivia asked as she ran up.

"We found Ivor and stopped him," Jesse answered simply.

"Jesse and Nikki did, anyway," Petra mentioned.

"Wrong. You have stopped nothing," Ivor said, standing up straight again. "A query: have you ever seen the effects of a splash potion of slowness?" he asked, pulling another splash potion out.

"What--" Jesse started to say, but it came out much slower once Ivor threw the potion. "Are. You. Talking. About?" He soon found that everything had gone in slow motion. Ivor was simply walking out, and he couldn't catch him!

"You. Big. Jerk!" Axel shouted at him.

"Get. Back. Here!" Petra cried, but it was no use. Ivor was out the door. But before he left, he sent some chilling words into their ears.

"Magnus and Ellegaard may think they can stop me; that they can stop the Wither Storm, but they are mistaken. And it will cost them their lives!" he swore. Then, the walls slammed shut, leaving everyone trapped inside!

# **Epilogue**

The situation as it appears seems hopeless. Our heroes, trapped in a dark tomb, have no escape. Ivor has gotten away, and the monster he created is still on the loose. Worst of all, Soren is nowhere to be found. And so, the questions remain: will they take down the Wither Storm? Is there any way to cure Petra's wither sickness? Will Nikki ever be able to control the mighty powers of the command block amulet? Only time will tell...

\*"We Are the Champions" plays\*
IIIIIIIII finished Book 2
For my watchers
And IIIIIIIII will keep writiiiiiiing
Till the eeeeeeeeend
Cause I am ninjakid
I am ninjakid!
And this is Rewritten
MC:SM Rewritteeeeeeen!

Okay, it's time to use my serious-slash-scary voice for the finish! \*clears throat\* Mi-mi-mi-mi...la-la-la-la-la-la-la! Punky pink puppies picked up popcorn from people...\*ahem!\* Okay, I think I got it now. \*deep breath\*

To be Continued...

There we are! D-Did I ace it?

### **About the Author**

Hiya! I'm jetrashipper! One part shipper, one part jetra, I don't just ship Jesse and Petra. I ship all SORTS of trash! Lukesse, Olixel, Harvor, Misa, Magnugaard...I could go on! Anyways, I don't just do Wattpad. I also love Deviantart, and the Wiki! Am I a gaming freak? That's one way to put it.

### My Interests:

- -Gaming
- -Listening to Music
- -dA
- -YouTube
- -Animation
- -FanFic Writing

### My OCs:

-Nikki (MC:SM OC)

(She's my main OC, but there's more on the way!)

### Little About Me!:

- -I'm currently genderless
- -I'M SHIPPING TRASH!
- -I'm ALSO known as "theninjakid14"
- -Radki, my OC ship, is one of the most popular in the MC:SM fandom!

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